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County of Sacramento

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March 25, 2024

The Honorable Marie Alvarado-Gil, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
1021 O Street, Suite 7240
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1245 (Ochoa-Bogh). In-home supportive services: licensed health care professional certification - Support

Dear Senator Alvarado-Gil:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to support SB 1245 by Senator Ochoa Bogh, which streamlines the process for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) clients to receive paramedical services.

California's population of older adults aged 65 and older is projected to reach 25 percent of the population, or 8.6 million Californians, by 2030. IHSS is an important tool to meet the goals of the Master Plan for Aging to enable this population to age with dignity and independence and assist adults with disabilities. Currently, nearly 600,000 IHSS providers deliver services to over 750,000 recipients in the state. This includes paramedical services, which are tasks necessary to help maintain the client's health. Types of paramedical services include, but are not limited to, glucose testing, insulin injections, G-tube feeding, colostomy care, wound care.

While the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) allows any licensed healthcare professional to sign off on the initial SOC 873 form required for a client to obtain IHSS, the department only allows limited types of healthcare professionals to sign the additional SOC 321 form required to authorize paramedical services. Specifically, only physicians, surgeons, podiatrists, and dentists are authorized to sign this additional form.

The current requirements for authorizations of both the health care certification and paramedical forms can prevent timely delivery of services essential for the client's health. Counties cannot allow paramedical services without the required form, which can lead to significant delay for a client to obtain paramedical services from their IHSS provider. This delay can be exacerbated by overwhelmed healthcare systems.

SB 1245 allows the same licensed health care professionals who currently sign the IHSS health care certification form to also sign the paramedical form, within their scope of practice. This bill also allows nurses and nurse practitioners (at the direction of the licensed health care practitioner) to complete the forms. Aligning which licensed health care professionals may sign the paramedical and health care certification forms will reduce administrative barriers. By broadening the types of health care providers who are authorized to sign these forms, IHSS clients can have

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both forms signed at the same time by the same provider, thereby reducing delays, improving health outcomes, and better fulfilling the goals of the IHSS program.

For these reasons, Sacramento County supports SB 1245. Feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or deborde@saccounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Elisia De Bord

Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Members, Senate Committee on Human Services
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies
County Welfare Directors Association