

LANTERMAN COALITION



Assembly Member, Speaker Toni Atkins
State Capitol, 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator, Pro Tem Kevin De Leon
State Capitol, 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Developmental Services Funding and the Health Care Tax Reform Proposal

Dear Assembly Member Atkins and Senator De Leon

Re: On behalf of The Lanterman Coalition, a coalition of statewide associations and organization advocating for the preservation of the Lanterman Act we urge your support of the Health Care Tax Reform Proposal that will be coming to you for a vote. Typically, we would not be involved in urging any tax related legislation as we are not experts in taxation but we are experts in developmental services and we are painfully aware of the devastated condition of community services for people with developmental disabilities and their families. What we do know about the Health Care Tax Reform Proposal is that if a solution is not found for reforming the structure of this provider tax, health and human services programs will receive the brunt of the budget cuts that would result, as it is discretionary and developmental services historically receive the majority of those cuts. During this state of system collapse, developmental services cannot survive any share of a budget short fall that would exceed \$1 billion.

More importantly the administration has identified the Health Care Tax Reform Proposal as the source of funding to begin restoration of developmental services and since the system hasn't seen a true rate increase since 2000 we desperately need this source of funding as soon as possible to stop the closures of important programs across the state. Just over the past three months we have lost significant programs from closures in Los Angeles, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Kern Counties displacing hundreds within the last few months and thousands over the past few years. The infrastructure is so dismantled that community providers can't hire enough workers to meet the local needs and about half of the workers they do hire (91% of all workers are women) end up still qualifying for public benefits. In addition to the workers the families end up paying the price for the broken infrastructure with well

over 100,000 senior caregivers and tens of thousands of individuals who don't receive any supports at all.

The Lanterman Coalition has been involved with the Administration in crafting this proposal, and we appreciate all the hard work of the administration to bring us to a point where we can look forward to a serious infusion of funding (nearly an estimated \$420 mil total funds) beginning soon to address a variety of serious funding shortfalls. They worked with all of us to reach a consensus and a reasonable funding package reflecting those priorities. We are on board with its broad and inclusive provisions and believe this package for the Developmental Disabilities service system is worthy of unanimous bipartisan and bicameral approval by all 120 legislators in California. Thank you to the administration and to legislative leadership on both sides and in both houses. It is time for us to step forward together in support of the 300,000 Californians with developmental disabilities!

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Anderson', with a long, sweeping underline.

Tony Anderson
Chair, Lanterman Coalition
Executive Director, The Arc California

Cc:

Jennifer Troia, Policy Consultant, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore

Marjorie Swartz, Policy Consultant, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore

Gail Gronert, Policy Consultant, Office of the Speaker

Agnes Lee, Policy Consultant, Office of the Speaker

Matt Hedges, Legislative Director, Office of Senate Minority Leader Jean Fuller

Julie Sauls, Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Jean Fuller

Joshua White, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Minority Leader Chad Mayes

Mark Leno, Chair, Senate Budget Committee

Jim Nielsen, Vice Chair, Senate Budget Committee

Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services

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Shirley Weber, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee

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Members, Senate Human Services Committee

Taryn Smith, Principal Consultant, Senate Human Services Committee

Members, Assembly Human Services Committee

Myesha Jackson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services Committee

Members, Senate Public Health and Developmental Services Committee

Members, Senate Appropriations Committee (2nd Extraordinary Session)

Members, Assembly Public Health and Developmental Services Committee

Members, Assembly Finance Committee (2nd Extraordinary Session)

Teri Boughton, Consultant, Senate Health Committee

Paula Villescaz, Senior Consultant, Assembly Health Committee

Kirk Feely, Health Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office

Chantele Denny, Human Services Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office

Joe Parra, Principal Consultant on Human Services, Senate Republican Caucus

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Cyndi Hillery, Consultant, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office

Mary Bellamy, Consultant on Human Services, Assembly Republican Caucus

Craig Wilson, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Joel Anderson

Sunshine Borelli, Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Jim Beall

Tim Valderrama, Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Ed Hernandez, O.D.

Junay Gardner, Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Bob Huff

Sunday Balalis, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Mark Leno

Kelly Burns, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Mike McGuire

Luan Huynh, Consultant, Office of Senator Holly Mitchell

Kathy Smith, Senior Legislative Aide, Office of Senator William Monning

Mark Timmerman, Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Mike Morrell

Jennifer Teasdale, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Jim Nielsen

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Donna Campbell, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor