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March 20, 2024

Honorable Dr. Corey Jackson, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
1021 O Street, Suite 6120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Caroline Menjivar, Chair
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Sub. No. 3
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: IHSS Public Authority Administrative Funding \$60.5M (\$30.5M GF) and Public Authority Back-Up Provider System (BUPS) Funding \$2.8M (\$1.4M GF) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Jackson and Senator Menjivar,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for the Governor's proposed budget allocation related to Public Authority (PA) Administrative Funding for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and the Public Authority Back-Up Provider System (BUPS) Funding. The IHSS program provides vital services to over 750,000 older adults and individuals with disabilities to help them remain safely in their own homes rather than institutional care, which is more expensive.

The Kern IHSS Public Authority maintains a list of qualified caregivers to assist those in need with finding the provider that best supports their medical requirements. In addition, we provide valuable training opportunities for IHSS consumers and their care providers. PA staff also investigate the qualifications and background of potential providers and negotiate wages and benefits with the labor unions representing IHSS providers.

We use the administrative funding to execute mandated responsibilities and we appreciate the recognition that caseload is increasing and the additional funding to meet the needs of a growing population of IHSS consumers.

As outlined and projected in the Master Plan on Aging, the demand for qualified caregivers continues to grow. Public Authorities work hard but still struggle to find and retain enough IHSS providers to meet the demand for the IHSS Provider Registry and the Back-Up Provider Program.

Kern County currently has 551 eligible providers on the BUPS list and pays \$18.00/hour (includes \$2.00 differential pay). Hours are part of the client's hours, not in addition to. Providers are eligible for 80 hours max per fiscal year. There is an exception of up to 160 hours if the client is severely impaired. The providers are temporary, and the client must have an urgent need related to personal care that cannot be postponed and is immediate. An urgent need is one that would have a direct impact on the client and potentially jeopardize their health and/or safety and result in emergency services and/or out of home placement.

We appreciate the continued support in the proposed FY 24-25 budget for IHSS Public Authority Administrative Funding **\$60.5M (\$30.5M GF)** and Public Authority BUPs Funding **\$2.8M (\$1.4M GF)** and ask for your support.

Sincerely,



David Couch, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members and Staff, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2
Honorable Members and Staff, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 3
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Senator Scott Weiner
Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel
California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS
California State Association of Counties
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Kern Aging and Adult Services
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange