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March 22, 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) Streamlined Paramedical Services for IHSS Clients – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Alvarado-Gil,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our support for SB 1245 (Ochoa Bogh), which streamlines the process for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) clients to receive paramedical care such as administering medication or giving injections, tube feeding, and providing blood/urine testing, wound care, or any treatments requiring sterile procedures.

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 in meeting the goals of the Master Plan for Aging to enable this growing population to age with dignity and independence, as well as assisting 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.

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 second 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. This bill would also allow nurses and nurse practitioners working 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 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.

The Kern County Board of Supervisors recognizes the need to improve the process for IHSS clients who need paramedical services. For this reason, we are pleased to support this legislation and respectfully ask that you vote **"YES" on SB 1245**.

Sincerely,



David Couch, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members and consultants, Senate Committee on Human Services
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)
Kern County Aging and Adult Services
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange