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March 21, 2025

Honorable Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
1021 O Street, Suite 7310
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

RE: In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS): Administrative Rebase Funding

Dear Chair Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson and Chair Dr. Corey A. Jackson,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, I urge your support for the County Welfare Directors Association of California's (CWDA) request to update the IHSS budget methodology in the May Revision to address chronic underfunding of program operations.

The IHSS program is essential to California's Master Plan for Aging, helping older adults and individuals with disabilities live independently at home while reducing burdens on families. By 2040, California's 65+ population will reach 11.4 million, and recent Medi-Cal expansions will further increase IHSS demand. However, counties lack the funding needed to keep up with this growth.

IHSS relies on county social workers to assess applicants, determine care needs, enroll providers, and ensure timely payments. Yet, the current funding model (unchanged since 2017-18) does not account for growing caseloads or key administrative tasks, leaving counties understaffed and overwhelmed. This leads to delays in processing applications and required reassessments, putting vulnerable Californians at risk.

CWDA has worked with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to reassess funding needs, with results expected in the May Revision. We strongly urge the Administration to fully fund county IHSS operations in the 2025-26 State Budget to ensure timely access to services and prevent costly institutionalization.

Investing in IHSS now is crucial to supporting California's rapidly aging population and ensuring they can age with dignity at home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Leticia Perez", written over a circular stamp.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Staff of the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
Members and Staff of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)
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