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April 16, 2025

The Honorable Alex lee
Chair, Assembly Committee on Human Services
1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 346 (Nguyen), Improving access to paramedical services for IHSS clients – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Lee,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for AB 346 (Nguyen), which streamlines the approval process for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) clients to access paramedical services, ensuring that vulnerable individuals receive timely and essential care.

California's senior population is rapidly growing. By 2030, adults aged 65 and older will comprise 25% of the state's population, or approximately 8.6 million Californians. The IHSS program plays a vital role in helping this population age safely and independently at home, a central goal of the state's Master Plan for Aging.

Currently, nearly 730,000 IHSS providers serve more than 800,000 clients statewide, delivering critical support, including paramedical services such as medication administration, wound care, and injections. However, unnecessary administrative barriers are delaying access to these services.

Under current law, any licensed healthcare professional can sign the initial SOC 873 healthcare certification form needed to qualify for IHSS. However, only physicians, surgeons, podiatrists, and dentists are allowed to sign the SOC 321 form required to authorize paramedical services. This restriction often leads to significant delays in service, particularly when clients cannot easily access those specific healthcare providers—an issue worsened by overburdened health systems.

AB 346 provides a common-sense solution: it allows the same licensed health care professionals who can sign the initial IHSS health care certification form to also sign the paramedical authorization form. The bill also permits nurses and nurse practitioners, working under the direction of a licensed provider, to complete the forms. This alignment will:

- Reduce delays in accessing essential care
- Simplify the process for providers and clients alike
- Improve client health outcomes by ensuring continuity and speed of care
- Support counties in delivering IHSS services more efficiently

In Kern County, we currently serve an average of 16,834 IHSS clients, with 1,949 receiving paramedical services. Our providers deliver over 17,000 hours of paramedical services per month. Delays caused by current form requirements directly impact our clients' well-being and place an added burden on staff and families trying to navigate the system.

The passage of AB 346 will reduce administrative bottlenecks, cut down on approval time, and expand access to paramedical services for those who need them most.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors supports this measure and respectfully requests that you vote **YES on AB 346**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leticia Perez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Human Services
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange