

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

May 27, 2026

Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
1021 O Street, Ste. 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator John Laird
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review
Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Subcommittee 3
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Dr. Corey Jackson
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee
1021 O Street, Suite 8130
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: IHSS Cuts and Medi-Cal Asset Limit in the 2026–27 May Revise – Oppose

Honorable Members of the State Legislature,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong opposition to several proposals impacting In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program in the Governor's May Revise and January Budget. The IHSS program provides vital services to older adults and individuals with disabilities, covering over 18,000 consumers and nearly 12,000 providers in Kern County; services that allow people to remain safe in their own homes rather than rely on institutional care or urgent care, which is more expensive.

While we recognize the challenges posed by federal policy changes, economic uncertainty, and multi-year state deficit projections, we strongly believe that budget decisions must protect the health, stability, and independence of older adults and people with disabilities. We. Therefore, respectfully oppose the following proposals included in the Governor's proposed budget:

Shifting State IHSS Costs to Counties – OPPOSE

Kern County is strongly opposed to the proposal to remove the state's share of costs for IHSS hours per case growth based on a statewide baseline average. Counties are unable to absorb the additional cost to fund the authorized IHSS hours per case that are greater than the baseline statewide average without

negatively impacting other critical social services programs. This would ultimately result in the loss of hours for IHSS consumers that are vitally needed.

Elimination of the IHSS Residual Program – OPPOSE

This program is a critical safety net that allows recipients to continue receiving services while reestablishing their Medi-Cal eligibility. Consumers may be disenrolled from Medi-Cal due to paperwork errors, missed deadlines, or administrative issues – not because they are ineligible for support. People facing automatic termination from IHSS when they lose their Medi-Cal eligibility puts older adults and people with disabilities at serious risk of losing essential care and their ability to remain safe in their homes.

Rollback of Medi-Cal Asset Limit to \$2000 individual/\$3,000 couple – OPPOSE

Reinstating the asset limit to \$2,000 forces people into deep poverty and likely the loss of essential health and long-term care coverage. It punishes couples by limiting their combined assets to only \$3,000. This will result in the loss of IHSS for thousands of people who will have no alternative for care. As a result of losing access to care, the costs to the state when they regain eligibility will likely increase because their condition will have worsened and they may no longer be able to live at home, thus requiring full-time nursing facility care.

This proposal reverses one of the most important disability and aging policy reforms California has implemented in recent years. Currently individuals may retain up to \$130,000 in nonexempt property, allowing people to save modest emergency funds and maintain basic reserves for housing and disability-related expenses. This penalizes people for responsible planning and having somewhat limited financial stability.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors respectfully urges the Legislature to protect IHSS, support our most vulnerable constituents, and oppose the Governor's budget proposals and work with stakeholders to find reasonable budget solutions that don't adversely impact IHSS consumers.

Sincerely,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Chris Woods, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Jason Sisney, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
Kelsy Castillo, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
Elizabeth Freeman, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Committee on Budget Subcommittee No. 2
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Fiscal
Joseph Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Megan DeSousa, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Eric Dietz, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Richard Figueroa, Office of the Governor

Paula Villescaz, Office of the Governor
Kim Johnson, Health and Human Services Agency
Corrin Buchanan, Health and Human Services Agency
Jennifer Troia, California Department of Social Services
Kris Cook, Human Services, Department of Finance
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst's Office
Juwan Trotter, Legislative Analyst's Office
Kim Rothschild, Executive Director, California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange