

April 13, 2015

The Honorable Autumn Burke
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1261 – Support

Dear Assemblymember Burke:

The Senior Services Coalition represents over 41 organizations that provide health and supportive services to over 50,000 seniors in Alameda County. We are writing to support AB 1261, which preserves Community-Based Adult Services essential to over 28,000 elderly and disabled Medi-Cal recipients with serious health conditions that put them at risk of having to live in a nursing home against their wishes.

CBAS provides nursing, behavioral health, vocational, occupational, caregiver and social supports to Californians who have multiple complex chronic conditions. These services help people stay in their own homes by effectively managing health conditions and coordinating their care. Services are provided consistent with a person-centered care plan designed after a three-day interdisciplinary team assessment that includes a home visit and coordination with the participant's caregivers and primary care physician.

AB 1261 aligns state law with federal requirements for the CBAS benefit, consistent with the program specifications in the current 1115 waiver. It ensures continuity of care to some of California's most vulnerable citizens.

CBAS is an important service in the Coordinated Care Initiative and in helping California implement the Supreme Court *Olmstead* decision to ensure that frail California seniors and people with disabilities can live in their own homes with dignity and independence rather than being forced into costly institutional care.

We are pleased to offer our support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Wendy Peterson
Director, Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County