

**Senior Services Coalition  
of Alameda County**

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March 18, 2014

Assemblymember Richard Pan  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6005  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0070  
Fax 916-319-2197

**Re: AB 2025 - Support**

Dear Dr. Pan,

The Senior Services Coalition (SSC) represents over 41 organizations that provide health and supportive services to over 50,000 seniors in Alameda County. We are writing to express our support for AB 2025 (Dickinson). This legislation will raise the income threshold of the Aged and Disabled Medi-Cal program to 138%, thereby creating parity for very low-income seniors and people with disabilities who are currently struggling with an unreasonably high share of cost.

Begun in 2001, the A&D program provides free, full-scope Medi-Cal to low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. When the program was created, income eligibility was set at 100% FPL, plus income disregards of \$230 and \$310 for individuals and couples, respectively. In 2001, that equaled 133% FPL. Since then, income disregards have remained static and income eligibility limits have lost value – to just 124% FPL. When a person's income is above this level, she is moved into the Medically Needy program and must pay a share of cost. This relegates her to spending all of her monthly income, less \$600, on healthcare before her Medi-Cal is covered. For example, a person earning \$1,273 monthly (133% FPL) would be forced to pay \$673 for her healthcare monthly before Medi-Cal would cover any healthcare costs.

SSC member organizations have worked with seniors who have been unable to access Medi-Cal coverage because of the impossible burden of a high share of cost. Given that under the Affordable Care Act almost all people who qualify for free Medi-Cal have income up to 138% FPL, it is particularly unfair to require only medically frail and vulnerable people to pay possibly more than half their income before they can receive no-cost care.

We urge your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Wendy Peterson  
Director, Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

CC: Assembly Member Rob Bonta, fax 916-319-2118  
Assembly Member Bob Wieckowski, fax 916-319-2125  
Vanessa Cajina, Western Center on Law and Poverty (sponsor)