

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Looking Toward the 2022-23 May Revision**

Dear Governor Newsom,

We, the undersigned individuals who served on the Master Plan for Aging's Stakeholder Advisory Committee, write to express our continued appreciation for your commitment to improving the lives of older adults and people with disabilities. The state's strong fiscal outlook provides an unprecedented opportunity to invest in the Master Plan for Aging to remedy longstanding inequities in our systems of caring for older adults and people with disabilities.

Your 2022-2023 January Budget Proposal included several proposals that support the Master Plan for Aging, for which we are appreciative. We believe, however, that additional and more targeted investments in older adults and people with disabilities are necessary to make significant progress on the bold, innovative goals established in the Plan.

Investments in your Budget Proposal which we support and appreciate include, but are not limited to: continued funding for housing and homelessness; an extension of COVID paid sick leave benefits; critical expansions of Medi-Cal coverage and affordability; investments in the care economy workforce; making the IHSS provider back-up system permanent; implementation of the CalAIM program; and funding to support the Master Plan for Aging Data Dashboard.

Some of these investments are explicitly targeted to older adults and people with disabilities. Others, such as the investments in the care economy workforce and homelessness programs, could benefit older adults and people with disabilities if some significant portion of the funds are dedicated to meeting their unique needs. We are ready to work with you and the Legislature to ensure this happens. We also stand ready to work with you and the Legislature to develop and evaluate proposals to reform the state's approach to financing nursing facilities.

These investments in your Budget Proposal represent important and positive steps forward. And yet, as noted above, we believe greater investments are

needed. We believe the budget request we submitted November 11, 2021 (reattached) align well with the top priorities outlined in your Budget Proposal. The request calls for at least \$2.5 billion in investments in Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS), housing, transportation, and our caregiving workforce so that we can provide more Californian's the opportunity to get the care they need to age at home.

Thank you for considering our recommendations for further investment as you engage with the Legislature and prepare for the May Revision. We stand ready to partner with you and the Legislature to realize our shared vision for a future California where aging and disability are supported and valued—where people of all races and economic means know they can age in dignity.

Sincerely,

Maya Altman

Jan Arbuckle  
Vice Mayor City of Grass Valley

Donna Benton, PhD  
Association of CA Caregiver  
Resource Centers

Cheryl Brown  
Assemblymember (RET)  
California Commission on Aging

Janny Castillo  
St. Mary's Center

Bruce Chernof, MD, FACP

Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D.  
California Council of Community  
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Berenice Nuñez Constant, MPH  
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cc: Susan DeMarois, Director, California Department of Aging  
Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Kim McCoy Wade, Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability, and Alzheimer's,  
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Marko Mijic, Deputy Secretary, California Health and Human Services  
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