

**Senate Bill 512 – Long-Term Services and Supports  
(Senator Pan and Assemblymember Kalra)**

**Bill Summary**

Would establish the California Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Benefits Board to oversee a program to provide LTSS to eligible Californians. Would establish the California LTSS Benefits Trust to manage and invest revenues made available to pay for LTSS for eligible older adults and persons with disabilities, mobility, sensory, intellectual, developmental, and/or mental health disabilities. Establishes the California LTSS Advisory Committee to provide recommendations to the Board.

**Background**

California confronts many challenges in how to finance, develop, and organize LTSS services. For individuals and families, the unanticipated costs can lead to impoverishment, lack of care options, and intense psychological stress. When informal networks of care are not available, individuals and families pay out-of-pocket for LTSS, such as home care aides, assisted living communities, and nursing homes, to help fill the gap. But these services bring high costs, not only to the individuals directly involved, but also to taxpayers and the government with more individuals being forced to spend down to qualify for an already overburdened Medi-Cal LTSS system.

California currently has almost 8 million persons who are either older adults or persons with mobility, sensory, intellectual/developmental, and mental health disabilities. This population will grow significantly over the next decade, primarily due to the aging of the baby boomer cohort and longer life expectancies made possible by medical advances. By 2030, more than one million older adults in California will require some assistance with self-care.

Despite this, LTSS are not covered adequately by Medicare, and most Californians cannot afford to purchase private long-term care insurance. Paying out-of-pocket for LTSS is highly expensive, creates a significant financial and social burden for families, and is simply impossible for many Californians.

Most caregiving is provided by family members, primarily women, without compensation. This impacts their ability to participate in the workforce and save for retirement and ultimately contributes to the feminization of poverty. Nearly two-thirds of individuals age 65 and over living in poverty are women.

**Arguments in Support**

1. The proposed bill represents a responsible approach to addressing pressing long term care needs of California families.
2. The proposed approach represents a solution that:
  - a. California can achieve;
  - b. Will mitigate significant future budget pressures on the Medi-Cal program;
  - c. Will reflect California’s commitment to the *Olmstead* decision; and

- d. Most importantly will serve as a national example for California's commitment to older adults and persons with disabilities, including mobility, sensory, intellectual/developmental, and mental health disabilities.

**Organizations in Support:**

1. AARP California
2. Alzheimer's Association
3. California Alliance for Retired Americans
4. California Association for Adult Day Services (CAADS)
5. California Commission on Aging
6. California Domestic Workers Coalition
7. California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
8. California Long Term Care Ombudsman Association
9. CalPACE
10. Caring Across Generations
11. Congress of California Seniors
12. Disability Rights California
13. Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
14. Hand in Hand
15. Justice in Aging
16. Leading Age California
17. SEIU Local 2015
18. State Independent Living Council (SILC)
19. The Arc California
20. UDW/AFSCME Local 3930