

Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

AGING IS SOMETHING WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON

September 3, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1993 (Kamlager) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing on behalf of the Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County and our 40 member organizations to voice strong support for Assembly Bill 1993, The Family Caregiver Economic Security Act, into law.

Assembly Bill 1993 would amend state law to expand eligibility for Unemployment Insurance (UI) to include In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCS) providers who care for a spouse or a child. There are currently 121,000 parent and spouse providers in California, comprising 22% of the total IHSS workforce. The vast majority of these providers, both in Alameda County and in California, are women (85%).

Under state tax guidance, IHSS and WPCS providers that perform care in the home for their child or spouse are not eligible for UI. These providers may become unemployed as a result of the death or institutionalization of their child or spouse. Because they are unable to collect UI, they face economic as well as emotional devastation. This is not fair or right.

As California faces a profound homecare workforce shortage, our state must do everything it can to support family caregivers. AB 1993 would provide much needed economic security for those who leave employment outside the home to care for their loved ones.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your signature on Assembly Bill 1993.

Sincerely,



Wendy Peterson
Director, Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

C: Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager