

## Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

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July 16, 2018

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento CA 95814  
via fax: 916-319-2181

RE: SB 1004 (Weiner) - OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher;

The Senior Services Coalition represents 40 organizations that together provide health and supportive services to over 65,000 seniors in Alameda County. We are writing in opposition of SB 1004, a bill that would further limit the already inadequate mental health services available to older Californians.

SB 1004 would modify the priorities that the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission uses to grant Prevention & Early Intervention funds. Currently, while PEI is 20% of MHSA allocations and at least 51% of PEI funding must target people age 25 and younger, the language is broad to allow counties to identify and address the needs of other high-risk groups.

PEI funding and services for older adults is already extremely limited (only about 40% of counties have Older Adult System of Care units). In spite of recent amendments to the declaration section and the addition to the priority list for “early psychosis and mood disorder detection and intervention, including mood disorder programming that occurs across the lifespan,” SB 1004 as written would make it more difficult for counties to protect or create new PEI programs focused on older adults. The bill disregards the extensive work of local stakeholders in developing the PEI priorities, and does not address the high rates of older adult suicides and unmet mental health needs.

We urge you and the Committee to oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,



Wendy Peterson  
Director

CC: Assemblymember Catharine Baker; Assemblymember Rob Bonta; Assemblymember Tony Thurmond; Assemblymember Bill Quirk