

SB 228 (JACKSON): MASTER PLAN ON AGING

POSITION: The Chamber's Public Policy Sub-Committee on Healthcare voted to SUPPORT the bill on May 8, 2019. The Chamber's Public Policy Committee voted to SUPPORT the bill on May 14, 2019. The Chamber's Board of Directors voted to SUPPORT the bill on May 23, 2019.

RATIONALE: The state must adequately plan for this rapidly growing population that relies on coordinated service delivery.

STATUS: SB 228 was introduced by Senator Hanna Beth Jackson and was placed in the suspense file by the Senate Appropriations Committee in May.

SUMMARY

SB 228 directs the state to create a master plan on aging, to be developed under the oversight of an appointed Master Plan Director. That individual will oversee a thirteen-person panel that will work with stakeholders and state agencies to plan for the needs of the fastest growing population in California, our seniors. The bill outlines preliminary goals that include expanding access to coordinated systems of care, preparing families to plan and pay for long-term services, develop affordable housing options, and enhance access to transportation, among others.

INDUSTRY/IES IMPACTED

Every industry could expect a very minor impact from such legislation.

SUPPORTERS

- California Association for Health Services at Home
- CalPACE
- CA Collaborative for Long-Term Services & Supports
- National Association of Social Workers
- LeadingAge California
- We Stand with Seniors

OPPONENTS

None Known.

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

California's senior population is expected to increase by 4 million over the next decade. Knowing how to care for this population that disproportionately requires care and services is important for planning and budgeting purposes.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION

Given the lack of a master plan on a variety of other priority issues, such as health or climate change, it is unclear why one specific segment of the population will receive such outsized, and potentially costly, support.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As part of the Governor's proposed budget, Governor Newsom introduced the idea of a task force to address Alzheimer's, and in other speeches has indicated his support for a Master Plan on Aging. It is possible that such a Master Plan could circumvent the legislative process and instead be adopted via executive order.

We Stand with Seniors, the statewide coalition of organizations working to address senior issues and raise the profile of those issues, is supported by many organizations with a foothold in San Diego like West Health. We Stand with Seniors has initiated a campaign to inject senior issues into policy debates and has been working closely with the new administration and the legislature to develop various policy proposals.