

March 5, 2026

California Legislative Women's Caucus  
The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Chair  
The Honorable Caroline Menjivar, Vice Chair  
1021 O Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Request Women's Caucus to Oppose FY 26–27 Jan IHSS Budget Cuts**

Dear Chair Aguiar Curry and Vice Chair Menjivar:

The California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS (CAPA), Personal Assistance Services Council of LA County, Justice in Aging, and the California IHSS Consumer Alliance are requesting the Legislative Women's Caucus submit its opposition to several proposals impacting the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program in the Governor's January budget. The IHSS program provides vital services to over 875,000 older adults and individuals with disabilities helping them remain safe in their own homes rather than institutional or urgent care, which is more expensive.

The elimination of the IHSS Back-Up Provider Program, the shifts in share of cost to counties for IHSS service hours, and the cuts to the IHSS Residual Program will leave a gap in continuity of care for IHSS consumers and filling those caregiving gaps historically has fallen on women.

**We ask that you oppose these cuts and support the prior investments in these lifesaving programs.**

While we recognize the challenges presented by federal policy changes, economic uncertainty, and multi-year state deficit projections, we strongly believe budget decisions must protect the health, stability, and independence of older adults and people with disabilities.

For these reasons, we oppose the following budget proposals:

- **Elimination of the IHSS Back-Up Provider System – \$3.5 million General Fund**  
The administration cites low utilization as a reason to eliminate the IHSS Back-Up Provider System. However, utilization in many large counties is significant — resulting in successful outcomes for people who are in urgent need of a caregiver when their regular provider is unexpectedly unavailable or if they are being discharged from a hospital and need a caregiver to transition to home. This results in **a cost savings** to the state by keeping consumers out of hospitals and urgent care centers. CAPA estimates in FY 24-25, 4,195 requests were made or deemed eligible for a back-up provider and 2,482 of those requests were fulfilled by public authorities.
- **Elimination of the IHSS Residual Program – \$86 million General Fund**  
This program is a critical safety net that allows recipients to continue receiving services while reestablishing their Medi-Cal eligibility. Consumers may be disenrolled from Medi-Cal due to paperwork errors, missed deadlines, or administrative issues – not because they are ineligible for support. Without the Residual Program, these individuals would face automatic termination from IHSS, putting older adults and people with disabilities at serious risk of losing essential care and jeopardizing their ability to remain safe in their homes.

- **Shifting State IHSS Costs to Counties - \$233.6 million General Fund**

We oppose the proposal to remove the state’s share of costs for IHSS hours per case growth based on a statewide baseline average. Counties are unable to absorb the additional cost to fund the authorized IHSS hours per case that are greater than the baseline statewide average without negatively impacting other critical social services programs. This will likely result in the loss of hours for IHSS consumers that they vitally need.

Ensuring that all Californians can live independently and with dignity in their homes is essential. We call on the Legislature and Administration to protect IHSS and advance the goals of the Master Plans for Aging and Developmental Services.

Sincerely,

Kim Levy Rothschild  
Executive Director  
California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS

Janie Whiteford  
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California IHSS Consumer Alliance

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Luis Bravo  
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Kristy Madden  
CICA Membership Coordinator/Organizer  
LA IHSS Public Authority Governing Board

cc: Honorable Members and Staff, Legislative Women’s Caucus  
Sulema Landa, Principal Consultant, Legislative Women’s Caucus