



September 5, 2017

The Honorable Senator Ricardo Lara
Chair Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Senator Lara,

The California In-Home Support Services Consumer Alliance (CICA) is in strong support of AB 279-Holden. The community service providers, funded by the Department of Developmental Services, provide quality programs and services, including the coordination of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) to hundreds of children and adults with developmental disabilities in programs in cities and counties throughout California.

CICA is a non-profit member organization representing the receivers and providers of the IHSS program. Currently we represent 26 IHSS Advisory Committees representing individual counties who work with many community organizations assisting individuals who need IHSS to stay in their own home.

Many municipalities have set their own schedule for increases in the minimum wage at a rate that is accelerated compared to the State of California schedule. Any rate increase that exceeds the State of California in timing or level remains an unreimbursed expense until the State rate catches up. We are in favor of the rate increases and service providers are legally mandated to pay them. The gap for the unfunded increases will severely challenge the ability of community service providers to continue to provide quality programs and very harshly affect their budgets. In some cases organizations may be forced to cut back their services or close some programs altogether. Many of these rate increases are already in place and it is expected to cost some organizations up to \$250,000 in 2017 with more significant increases in the next five years. These are expenses that are

legally mandated and will not be reimbursed by the Department of Developmental Services.

Please support community service organizations so they can continue to provide the quality programs and services individuals with developmental disabilities and their families deserve. Please pass this bill out of the Appropriation Committee and let us know how we can work with you to carry it to completion with the Governor's signature.

Sincerely,

Charles Bean

CHARLES BEAN
Executive Director