



June 1, 2015

The Honorable Kansen Chu  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 470 (Chu) – In-Home Supportive Services: Fingerprinting**  
As Amended May 28, 2015

Dear Assembly Member Chu:

The California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA), a non-profit organization representing 28 County Advisory Boards throughout California strongly supports AB 470 which deals with problems experienced with the criminal background check process for IHSS providers. Specifically, AB 470 would require that, by October 1, 2016, for the Department of Justice (DOJ) and California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to jointly develop protocols on how to streamline the IHSS background check process.

The IHSS program provides in-home personal care and domestic services to low-income Californians who are blind, aged, or who have disabilities, and who need the services to stay safely at home. Approximately 460,000 Californians receive IHSS services from an estimated 385,000 providers. The program is responsible for low usage of California's Medi-Cal home health care services compared to other states and for lack of growth of Medi-Cal nursing facility beds. It has been a cost-effective model for other states, and has been the cornerstone of the independent living movement.

ABX4 19 (Chapter 17, Statutes of 2009) established expanded enrollment requirements for existing and prospective IHSS providers and registry applicants. Among the expanded requirements was the prerequisite that each provider submit fingerprints and undergo and pass a criminal background check conducted by the California Department of Justice (DOJ). In order to pass the criminal background check, an individual must not have been convicted of, or incarcerated following a conviction for, a disqualifying crime within the last ten years. Prior to 2009, only registry applicants were required to clear a criminal background check. The California Department of Social Services, which administers the IHSS program, estimated that 385,425 individuals will work as IHSS providers in 2014-15. Approximately 30 percent of IHSS providers cease being providers each year.

In calendar year 2013, the DOJ reports that Public Authorities submitted 91,619 "Applicant Transactions" to obtain criminal offender record information for individuals applying to become an IHSS provider or registry provider. The DOJ processed 72.47% of these criminal background checks in less than thirty days; however 27.53% required technical review by DOJ staff. The technical review process is typically triggered when the DOJ system rejects fingerprint images, there is a name check request for applicants that have had fingerprints rejected two times, or for complex and/or unique circumstances regarding criminal offender information search requests. It can take months for the DOJ to complete a technical review and the applicant is unable to be paid by IHSS until the DOJ criminal background check is complete.

For the above reasons, CICA is proud to sponsor AB 470 to require the DOJ and CDSS to develop policies and protocols to expedite the processing of criminal background checks. We respectfully urge an "Aye" vote on AB 470, when it comes before you on the Assembly floor.

Sincerely,

*Charles Bean*

CHARLES BEAN  
Executive Director