



September 8, 2015

Governor Jerry Brown  
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Encourage the Signing of SB 199 (Hall)

Governor Brown,

We urge Governor Brown to sign Senate Bill 199 (Hall) into law. This bill will expand In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) to include reading and document preparation services for IHSS recipients who are blind.

California IHSS Consumer Alliance is committed to improving and enhancing the lives of all those who use and provide In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS). CICA is a 501(3)(c) non-profit corporation and has a membership of 28 counties throughout California representing recipients and care providers who depend on long-term care services to remain in their own homes.

Established more than 40 years ago, the goal of the IHSS program is to enable seniors and persons with disabilities, including those who are blind, to be independent and remain in their own homes.

Unfortunately, as it currently stands, the IHSS program does not fully meet this goal for recipients who are blind.

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There is nothing that negatively impacts the ability of persons who are blind to remain independent more than the lack of access to written information. Many individuals who are blind, and especially newly blinded individuals, including seniors, do not have or cannot use a computer. Further, no matter how computer literate we may be, we all need to access and work with paper documents. Yet, the IHSS program does not include the reading of mail and other documents and the filling out of such documents as an authorized service. IHSS recipients who are blind are more likely to throw their mail away or have someone read it long after the time it needed to be read and acted upon simply because they can't afford to hire someone to perform this task.

For 20 years, the California Council of the Blind has been working to correct this injustice. Now, through the efforts of the council and the bill's other primary sponsor, UDW/AFSCME Local 3930, along with the support of many other groups and individuals, we are poised to make it happen.

The California IHSS Consumer Alliance encourages Governor Brown in signing Senate Bill 199 (Hall) and thanks him in advance for improving services offered through the state In-Home Supportive Services program!

Respectfully,

*Charles Bean*

CHARLES BEAN  
Executive Director