



August 13, 2019

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
State of California Attorney General
1300 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: 2020-21 DOJ Budget Request Regarding Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Reporting & Request a Meeting (Ltr. August 2, 2019)

Dear Attorney General Becerra:

The California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA) supports the requested meeting with representatives of 18 senior, disability, civil rights, labor and faith organizations in California, who wrote to you to meet early in your department's annual budget cycle for FY 2020-21.

CICA is a non-profit organization representing 34 members of In-Home Supportive Services Advisory Committees throughout the State of California. Our mission is to share information and strengthen service for those under the State of California In-Home Supportive Services program.

Besides the 4-reports referred to in the attached letter about abuse of elderly and disabled, to report abuse and receive assistance in a timely manner is very important.

There have been calls from individuals who are disabled and elderly about living in abusive situations but feared losing the assistance they have if a claim was filed (finding Care Providers is very difficult, even if it is a relative). This fear leads to a "culture of silence" allowing abusive situations

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Page 2 - 2020-21 DOJ Budget Request Regarding Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Reporting & Request a Meeting (Ltr. August 2, 2019) – 08/14/2019

to continue, as well as grow from one Consumer to another because of the lack of action from those supposedly there to assist and protect them.

We at CICA have heard from many individuals that they fear not being able to find another care provider.

Talking more about abuse and where an individual can receive assistance needs to be openly discussed. Individuals need more education and support in what abuse is and if it is happening, what will happen.

CICA supports the idea of bringing back the “Face it, it’s a Crime” program to address disabled and elderly individuals from abuse, started by the State of California Attorney General in 2003, or a program similar. This campaign was originally established by AB 1819 by former Assemblyman Kevin Shelley, D-San Francisco, which was signed into law in 2000.

CICA supports the representatives of 18 senior, disability, civil rights, labor and faith organizations in California, who wrote to you to meet early in your department’s annual budget cycle for FY 2020-21.

We ask you and your staff take the time needed to develop a budget towards preventive measures of abuse and create stronger tools for reporting and receiving services required!

Thank you for your time and efforts toward preventing abuse of our vulnerable population.

Respectfully,

Charles Bean

CHARLES BEAN
Executive Director

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