

Ms. Kim McCoy Wade, Director, California Department of Aging

Ms. Anastasia Dodson, Associate Director, Department of Health Care Services

Master Plan on Aging Comment Letter

Dear Director Wade and Associate Director Dodson,

We support the creation of a universal Long-term Services and Supports (LTSS) social insurance program for all people at all ages (cradle to grave) as well as other measures that would expand access to affordable LTSS for everyone so that ALL Californians can afford the support they need to live and age with dignity in their homes and communities. This means that the LTSS social insurance program must go beyond the version that was approved in the state of Washington last year to cover everyone who needs it and to be more generous in its level of benefit. It must include:

- People who are born with a disability or who acquire their disability as a youth;
- People who are out of the workforce (such as those who've retired or had to leave the workforce early due to a disability or a family caregiving need);
- Immigrant workers who pay their taxes using an Individual Tax Id Number (ITIN); and
- People who work as independent contractors.

We also encourage you to consider how such a new program can help address the growing shortage of direct care workforce by including provisions that improve wages and working conditions, enable immigrant workers to access LTSS jobs, and support their ability to organize, form or join a union or worker cooperative. Dignified working conditions are good for the workers and their employers and clients.

Marcia Freedman, Co-Convenor

Elder Action, an Ashby Village interest group
Berkeley