

SB-1249

Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act



Prepared by the
ELDERLY CARE
EVERYWHERE POLICY
TEAM



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Largest youth lobbying group for senior citizens and senior care in California.

Executive Summary

SB 1249, introduced by Senator Roth during the 2023-2024 Regular Session of the California Legislature, seeks to update and reform the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act. This act, which outlines the mission of the California Department of Aging, aims to provide leadership and develop systems that allow older adults to remain in their homes or the least restrictive environments. The bill acknowledges the state's demographic shift towards a larger, more diverse senior population and underscores the need to reform the act to better serve this demographic.

The bill highlights the growing complexity of social, medical, cognitive, and behavioral health supports required to meet the needs of an aging population. It emphasizes the importance of policies that promote aging with dignity and independence, aligning with Governor Gavin Newsom's 2019 Executive Order No. N-14-19, which called for the creation of a Master Plan for Aging to prepare for the year 2030 when one in four Californians will be 60 years of age or older.

A significant provision of SB 1249 allows counties the option to petition for designation as their local Area Agency on Aging (AAA). This change aims to enhance local control and improve the responsiveness of AAAs to the specific needs of their communities. The bill mandates the California Department of Aging to develop core programs and services that all AAAs must provide, ensuring a consistent standard of support across the state.

The bill also requires the development of performance measures and a statewide public awareness and engagement strategy. This strategy is designed to raise awareness about available programs and services, improve outreach to underserved populations, and ensure that all older adults can access the support they need. The California Data Dashboard for Aging will be maintained to track demographic changes and help tailor services to the needs of the aging population.

Moreover, SB 1249 authorizes the Department of Aging to enter into necessary contracts for the administration and implementation of the act, promoting flexibility and efficiency in service delivery.

In summary, SB 1249 is a comprehensive reform of the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, reflecting California's commitment to its senior citizens. By modernizing the act, the bill aims to ensure that older adults receive the necessary support to age with dignity and independence. This legislative effort is crucial as California prepares for a substantial increase in its senior population, ensuring that older adults remain valued and supported members of the community.



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Our Position

Senate Bill 1249 (SB 1249), introduced by Senator Roth, seeks to amend and enhance the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act in response to California's evolving demographic landscape. With the senior population expected to reach 10.8 million by 2030, this bill is crucial for ensuring the health and well-being of older adults through comprehensive state and local policies.

SB 1249 recognizes the complex and diverse needs of an aging population, emphasizing integrated social, medical, cognitive, and behavioral health supports. The bill addresses the demographic shift toward an older, more diverse population, necessitating systemic changes that respect race, ethnicity, language, culture, sexual orientation, and gender identity. It aligns with Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order No. N-14-19, which called for a Master Plan for Aging to support an aging population with dignity and independence.

A significant reform proposed by SB 1249 is allowing counties to petition for designation as their local Area Agency on Aging (AAA). This provision enhances localized control and responsiveness, ensuring services are tailored to community needs, thereby improving service delivery and benefiting seniors who rely on these programs for their daily needs and well-being.

SB 1249 mandates the California Department of Aging to develop core programs and services that all AAAs must provide, ensuring consistent, high-quality support statewide. The bill emphasizes performance measures and public awareness strategies to increase the visibility and accessibility of services, particularly for underserved populations. The bill also focuses on maintaining and updating the California Data Dashboard for Aging, a tool for tracking demographic changes and informing effective policy-making. By leveraging data from validated sources such as the United States Census and the California Healthy Places Index, the state can ensure its strategies are informed and impactful.

Furthermore, SB 1249 authorizes the Department of Aging to enter into necessary contracts for implementing and administering the act, allowing for flexible and agile service execution.

In summary, SB 1249 comprehensively reforms the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act to meet the current needs of California's senior citizens. This bill demonstrates the state's commitment to supporting older adults, ensuring they can age with dignity, respect, and independence. By addressing the diverse and complex needs of an aging population, SB 1249 is a critical step toward creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all senior citizens in California.



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Letter of Support for SB-1249

June 2, 2024

The Honorable Jasmeet Bains, Chair
Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-
Term Care Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: Support for SB 1249

Dear Chair Bains and Members of the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care,

On behalf of Elderly Care Everywhere, I am writing to express our strong support for SCR 104, which recognizes May 2024 as Older Americans Month and encourages all Californians to honor and engage with older adults.

On behalf of Elderly Care Everywhere, I write in strong support of SB 1249, which pertains to the Mello-Granlund Older Americans Act. This bill is crucial for enhancing support and services for older adults in California. California's senior population is expected to nearly double by 2030, representing about 25% of the state's residents. This demographic shift necessitates robust policies to ensure older adults can age with dignity and independence. SB 1249 enhances healthcare, housing, nutrition, and social programs for seniors, addressing their comprehensive needs.

SB 1249 mandates increased funding for senior healthcare programs, including preventive care and chronic disease management. This is critical, as approximately 80% of older adults have at least one chronic condition, and 68% have two or more. Improved healthcare access reduces hospitalizations and overall healthcare costs, enhancing the quality of life for seniors. The bill also allocates resources to expand affordable housing options for seniors, ensuring they have access to safe and comfortable living environments.

ASB 1249 is a vital piece of legislation that addresses the comprehensive needs of California's senior citizens. This bill supports seniors' ability to age with dignity and independence by enhancing healthcare, housing, nutrition, and social programs. We strongly urge you to vote in favor of SB 1249 and support this essential initiative to improve the lives of older adults in California.

Sincerely,
Aakrisht Mehra
Founder/CEO
Elderly Care Everywhere



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About Elderly Care Everywhere

Elderly Care Everywhere is a transformative nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of senior citizens. Since its inception, the organization has positively impacted over 40,000 seniors through a variety of programs aimed at enhancing their quality of life.

Elderly Care Everywhere has been instrumental in alleviating hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical debt, ensuring that seniors have access to the healthcare they need without the burden of financial stress. With more than 20 chapters across the United States, the organization extends its reach and resources to numerous communities, providing support and advocacy on a national scale.

Beyond U.S. borders, Elderly Care Everywhere has established flood relief camps in India, showcasing its commitment to global humanitarian efforts. The organization's impactful work has been recognized by the government of New Delhi, further highlighting its significant contributions to senior care and welfare. Through these efforts, Elderly Care Everywhere continues to lead the way in senior advocacy, ensuring that the elderly are treated with dignity and respect worldwide.

Thank you for your support of SB-1249.

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at

connect@elderlycareeverywhere.org