

# AB-2620

California Commission  
on Aging



Prepared by the  
ELDERLY CARE  
EVERYWHERE POLICY  
TEAM



## ELDERLY CARE EVERYWHERE

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

### Executive Summary

Assembly Bill No. 2620 (AB 2620), introduced by Assembly Member Bains during the 2023-2024 Regular Session of the California Legislature, aims to amend the structure and duties of the California Commission on Aging. This bill seeks to enhance the commission's effectiveness in advocating for older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers by making key changes to its composition, responsibilities, and operational procedures.

AB 2620 proposes reducing the number of commission members from 25 to 18, with 12 members appointed by the Governor, including at least two from a list of nominees submitted by area agency on aging directors and the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council of California. This restructuring aims to ensure a more focused and efficient commission. The bill also expands the commission's composition to include both consumers and providers of services under the federal Older Americans Act, emphasizing professional, lived, or academic expertise in areas such as health, behavioral health, and housing.

The bill clarifies that the commission is an "advisory commission" under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, making it subject to specific teleconferencing provisions. Additionally, AB 2620 reduces the number of annual commission meetings from six to four, streamlining its operations while maintaining its commitment to studying issues affecting older adults.

AB 2620 revises the commission's duties by eliminating the requirement to develop a method for selecting delegates to the statewide legislative meeting of senior advocates. Instead, the bill mandates the commission's advisory participation in considering initiatives for programs and services affecting older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers. It also empowers the commission to monitor and engage in federal advocacy efforts on issues impacting these populations.

The commission's revised duties include participating in workshops to help advocates understand legislative, regulatory, and program processes, preparing and sharing information about the health of older individuals, and advising on the State Plan on Aging. By focusing on these core functions, AB 2620 aims to strengthen the commission's role as a principal advocate for older adults and related populations.

In summary, AB 2620 seeks to modernize and enhance the California Commission on Aging's structure and duties. By refining the commission's composition, streamlining operations, and focusing advocacy efforts, the bill aims to better address the needs of older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers in California. This legislative effort underscores the state's commitment to ensuring these populations receive the necessary services and support to live with dignity and respect.



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# Our Position

Assembly Bill No. 2620 (AB 2620), introduced by Assembly Member Bains during the 2023-2024 Regular Session of the California Legislature, aims to modernize and enhance the California Commission on Aging. This bill seeks to refine the commission's structure, streamline operations, and focus advocacy efforts to better address the needs of older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers in California.

Elderly Care Everywhere strongly supports AB 2620 because it aligns with our mission to advocate for the health and welfare of older adults. By refining the commission's composition and duties, AB 2620 ensures a more effective and inclusive advocacy body that better serves California's aging population. This bill promotes a comprehensive approach to supporting older adults, emphasizing expertise in areas such as health, behavioral health, and housing.

AB 2620 proposes reducing the number of commission members from 25 to 18, with 12 appointed by the Governor, including at least 2 from nominees submitted by area agency on aging directors and the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council of California. This change ensures a more streamlined and focused commission for effective advocacy.

The bill clarifies that the commission is an "advisory commission" under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, subject to teleconferencing provisions, supporting transparency and public participation.

AB 2620 revises the commission's duties, including participating in training workshops to help advocates understand legislative and regulatory processes, sharing information about older individuals' health and well-being, and advising on the State Plan on Aging. These core functions strengthen the commission's role as a principal advocate for older adults and related populations.

Moreover, the bill emphasizes the commission's advisory role in considering programs affecting older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers, ensuring it remains relevant and responsive to these populations' evolving needs.

In summary, AB 2620 modernizes and enhances the California Commission on Aging's structure and duties. By refining the commission's composition, streamlining operations, and focusing advocacy efforts, the bill better addresses the needs of older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers. This underscores the state's commitment to supporting these populations, ensuring they receive necessary services to live with dignity. Elderly Care Everywhere supports AB 2620 as it aligns with our mission to advocate for older adults' welfare and rights, promoting a society where they are valued and respected.



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# Letter of Support for AB-2620

June 2, 2024

The Honorable Marie Alvarado-Gil, Chair  
Senate Human Services Committee  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### Re: Support for AB 2620

Dear Senator Alvarado-Gil and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

On behalf of Elderly Care Everywhere, I write in strong support of AB 2620, which proposes essential amendments to the California Commission on Aging.

AB 2620 aims to enhance the efficacy and representation of the California Commission on Aging by reducing its size to 18 members. This will ensure a mix of consumers and providers of services under the federal Older Americans Act with diverse professional, lived, or academic expertise. This streamlined and more focused commission will be better equipped to address the complex needs of our growing senior population, which is expected to reach 10.8 million individuals by 2050.

Moreover, the bill mandates that the commission meet at least four times annually, allowing for more thorough and meaningful discussions on issues critical to older adults, including health, housing, and long-term care. By including professionals from fields such as behavioral health and elder justice, AB 2620 ensures that a wide array will inform the commission's recommendations of relevant expertise.

AB 2620 also clarifies the commission's role as an advisory body under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, promoting transparency and public participation in its proceedings. This is crucial for maintaining public trust and ensuring that the voices of older adults are heard and respected.

These changes will significantly improve the commission's ability to advocate for and address the needs of California's senior citizens. Therefore, we strongly urge you to support AB 2620 and help advance older Californians' health, well-being, and dignity.

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 AB-2620. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at [connect@elderlycareeverywhere.org](mailto:connect@elderlycareeverywhere.org)