

SB-875

Health and Care Facilities: Homes for Seniors and Referral Help



Prepared by the
ELDERLY CARE
EVERYWHERE POLICY
TEAM



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Executive Summary

Introduced by Senator Glazer during the 2023-2024 Regular Session of the California Legislature, Senate Bill No. 875 (SB 875) proposes significant amendments to the Health and Safety Code concerning residential care facilities for the elderly, specifically addressing the operations of referral agencies. This legislation aims to enhance regulatory oversight and accountability of referral agencies that connect individuals with residential care facilities, ensuring these entities meet high ethical and operational standards.

The bill mandates that referral agencies must obtain a license from both the State Department of Public Health and the State Department of Social Services to operate legally. It introduces stringent measures to ensure that these agencies operate transparently and ethically, including prohibiting referral agencies from receiving payments, commissions, or holding any property or power of attorney from clients they serve.

Significantly, SB 875 expands the scope of mandated reporters to include owners, operators, and employees of referral agencies, aligning with the state's broader efforts to safeguard vulnerable populations from abuse and exploitation. This requirement emphasizes the bill's commitment to elder justice by ensuring that any suspicion of elder or dependent adult abuse is reported promptly, enhancing protective measures for seniors.

Additionally, the bill requires referral agencies to maintain liability insurance, enhancing client protection and aligning with best practices in healthcare. It also sets penalties for non-compliance to ensure adherence to guidelines. This measure aims to prevent conflicts of interest and ensures agencies act in the elderly's best interest, promoting transparency and trust.

The legislation proactively regulates a key aspect of elder care, aiming to improve service quality and safety for California's aging population. By enforcing these regulations, SB 875 ensures elderly residents receive respectful and competent care, promoting a more transparent and reliable care network. Additionally, the bill sets clear boundaries on financial interactions between referral agencies and their clients to prevent potential financial exploitation.

In summary, SB 875 enhances operational standards for referral agencies and underscores California's commitment to safeguarding its senior population. The bill ensures elderly residents receive dignified and quality care with robust protections, marking a significant advancement in the state's health and safety framework. This crucial legislation strengthens elder care infrastructure, maintaining California's leadership in elder justice and care quality.



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Our Position

Senate Bill No. 875 (SB 875), championed by Senator Glazer, represents a pivotal legislative stride toward refining the regulatory oversight of referral agencies linked to residential care facilities for the elderly in California. This bill is crucial as it seeks to fortify the governance of these agencies, ensuring they adhere to stringent ethical standards and are fully accountable for their conduct.

Elderly Care Everywhere ardently endorses SB 875, as it resonates profoundly with our foundational goal to champion the health, welfare, and overall happiness of seniors. The bill's stipulation for referral agencies to secure licenses from both the State Department of Public Health and the State Department of Social Services is essential. This dual licensing requirement ensures that only agencies that meet rigorous operational standards can engage with our elderly, fostering a highly transparent and ethical environment, critical for their protection and well-being.

Moreover, SB 875 significantly broadens the scope of mandated reporters to encompass employees of referral agencies. This expansion is a critical enhancement for the protection of our elderly community, ensuring that any signs of abuse or neglect are reported swiftly and effectively addressed, thereby fortifying the safety net around our most vulnerable citizens.

The bill also mandates that referral agencies maintain liability insurance, which aligns with the best practices for business operations within the health and care sectors. This requirement, along with specified penalties for non-compliance, serves as a potent deterrent against malpractice, thereby promoting greater transparency and building trust in the referral process.

The proactive regulatory measures introduced by SB 875 are commendable. By defining clear operational guidelines and ethical standards for referral agencies, the bill ensures that elderly residents receive the respectful and competent care they deserve. Additionally, it tackles potential financial abuses by setting definitive boundaries on the financial interactions between referral agencies and their clients, crucial steps toward eradicating conflicts of interest.

In essence, SB 875 is more than just a legislative act; it is a significant enhancement to the infrastructure supporting elder care in California. Elderly Care Everywhere's support for this bill underscores our commitment to a system that upholds and protects the dignity and rights of senior citizens. SB 875 exemplifies California's dedication to leading in elder justice and care quality, striving to foster a safer, more supportive environment for our aging population, and ensuring that they live their golden years with respect and dignity.



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Letter of Support for SB-875

June 4, 2024

The Honorable Alex Lee, Chair
Assembly Committee on Human Services

Re: Support for SB-875

Dear Assembly Member Lee and Members of the Human Services Committee,

On behalf of Elderly Care Everywhere, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 875, which aims to enhance regulatory oversight and transparency of referral agencies for residential care facilities for the elderly. This bill addresses critical gaps in the current system, ensuring better protection and informed decision-making for seniors.

SB 875 mandates that referral agencies obtain proper licensing from the State Department of Social Services before referring individuals to residential care facilities for the elderly. By requiring referral agencies to disclose key information to seniors and maintain records of these disclosures, SB 875 promotes transparency and ensures that seniors and their families can make well-informed decisions about their care options.

Moreover, the bill prohibits referral agencies from holding any power of attorney or property of the individuals they serve, thus safeguarding seniors from potential financial abuse. It also designates referral agency owners, operators, and employees as mandated reporters of elder abuse, expanding the network of protection for our senior population.

The requirement for referral agencies to maintain liability insurance further ensures that seniors have recourse in case of negligence, providing an additional layer of security for their well-being.

SB 875 is a crucial step in improving the safety and quality of care for our seniors. It holds referral agencies accountable and ensures seniors receive the protection and respect they deserve. We strongly urge you to support this vital legislation to enhance the care and protection of our senior community.

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-875. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at connect@elderlycareeverywhere.org