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CA Association for Adult Day Services

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California Community Based Adult Services (CBAS) Supporters Urge the Legislature to Reject Governor Newsom's Proposed Elimination of CBAS

Thousands of Seniors are Now at Risk for Placement in Nursing Homes- the Source of Nearly Half of All COVID-19 Deaths in California.

Sacramento, May 28, 2020—Today, seniors and adults with disabilities and their advocates across California called on the California Legislature to reject the proposed elimination of funding for California Adult Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) (which is known as Adult Day Health Care center licensed under the state Department of Public Health) in the Governor's May Revise budget.

"Make no mistake: Governor Newsom is planning on balancing our state's budget squarely on frail lives least able to protest. This is outrageous, and we are calling on the state legislature to stand up to Governor Newsom and restore Adult Day Health Care," said Corinne Jan, RN, CEO of Oakland's Family Bridges, Inc., and Chair of the National Adult Day Services Association.

While the Governor's May Revise budget update proposes cuts to many existing programs, it calls for the wholesale elimination of CBAS and Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program (MSSP). The cuts will impact a combined 50,000 seniors who, along with their families, rely on CBAS/ADHC centers for integrated skilled monitoring; physical, occupational and speech therapy; nutrition counseling and socialization and on MSSP for complex intensive care coordination in the community.

Participants in the ADHC/CBAS program include individuals with Alzheimer's dementia, serious psychiatric disabilities, other cognitive disabilities and/or significant health issues such as heart disease, diabetes or Parkinson's disease. During COVID-19, the CBAS/ADHC centers quickly adapted to providing at-home services and regular telephonic monitoring with nurses and social workers. However, as more caregivers prepare to return to work, vulnerable seniors and adults with disabilities are facing being left alone in their homes.

The financial impact of the elimination of CBAS/ADHC will dramatically increase state costs due to the high cost of institutional care. The state currently pays \$76 per client per day for these services, while Medi-Cal reimburses skilled nursing facilities an average of \$219.57 per day. Previous litigation brought by public interest elder law organizations such as Disability Rights and Justice in Aging in 2011 stopped the State from dismantling adult day health care as it violated the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision.

Late on Friday, May 22, just days away from the final budget subcommittee hearing, the California Department of Health Care Services released a new proposal called "Long Term Care at Home" with no programmatic details or cost, and that seeks to create a new Medi-Cal benefit that duplicates existing services.

"In an 11th hour effort to provide political cover for the elimination of services for seniors and adults with disabilities, the Governor rolled out the idea of a new 'Long Term Care' program late in the afternoon of Friday, May 22, as an alternative to CBAS," said Cathy Davis, Executive Director of Bayview Senior Services in San Francisco. She continued, "They did not consult stakeholders who are impacted, notably seniors and caregivers, and offered no details about what this new plan is, dismissing over 40 years of infrastructure created by our centers that help elders and persons with disabilities remain in their communities and out of nursing homes. It is a sham and it does not address the work being done now."

Among those joining the California Association for Adult Day Care Services (CAADS) in demanding the restoration of the CBAS/ADHC and MSSP programs are Disability Rights California; Justice in Aging; National Health Law Program; the National Adult Day Services Association; the California Council of the Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's L.A, San Diego and Orange County; local electeds, Jewish Public Affairs Committee, and seniors, caregivers and advocates across California.