



**Testimony of Donna Hale
Executive Director
National Adult Day Services Association
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Dear Chairman Pan and Members of the Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 on Health & Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today regarding the DHCS Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) Elimination Trigger. I'm Donna Hale, the Executive Director of the National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA). NADSA is the leading national organization representing the Adult Day Services industry which has more than 5,500 providers across the country.

Our organization is closely monitoring the funding situation in California as it impacts this critically important sector of long-term care. We are deeply concerned that the state would consider eliminating funding for Adult Day Services not only for the residents of your great state, but also its potential to impact other states. We implore you to reconsider. Adult Day serves your most vulnerable population of seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities and they will be left with no services and nowhere to receive them until they default to nursing homes.

The goal of Adult Day Services is to provide vital care and services such as medical assistance, nutritious meals, and socialization to keep people in their homes and enable

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caregivers to work. The economic impact of a world without Adult Day Services is devastating for those we serve, their caregivers and their community.

Adult Day Services is the most cost-effective method of serving this community. Each year, the insurance company Genworth conducts an independent Cost of Care Survey: (<https://www.genworth.com/aging-and-you/finances/cost-of-care.html>). The Genworth survey clearly shows Adult Day Services are by far the most cost-effective method of care for seniors.

The national monthly median cost in 2019 for Adult Day Services was \$1,625 as compared to the cost for in-home care, a home health aide or assisted living facility which begin at over \$4,000 per month. Monthly nursing home costs are even more extreme – ranging from over \$7,500 for a semi-private room to more than \$8,500 for a private room.

It is clear that Adult Day Services provides the most cost-effective opportunity to care for a most vulnerable segment of our population. The savings that you project will simply not come to realization in the long term because the state will still need to provide services to this important and fragile population, even if Adult Day Health Care centers disappear.

Additionally, the COVID-19 crisis has not stopped Adult Day Services centers from serving their clients who currently are sheltering in place. Many centers around the country – including those in the state of California – are providing daily telehealth checks, delivering meals and materials for activities, and in some cases providing in-home medical care for those clients who require it while employing all the required safety precautions. Lack of these interventions will undoubtedly increase emergency department and hospital admissions as well as earlier admissions to nursing homes.

In fact, we are aware that California CBAS centers have risen to the call during the pandemic by providing 972,000 contacts to meet the needs of 36,000 frail seniors and 73,000 caregivers in just eight short weeks. And those centers have conducted more than 324,000 COVID-19 screenings.

As the national leader for the Adult Day Services industry, we encourage you to not only fully fund Adult Day Services but to consider increasing funding as the pandemic has left so many more in need. Our country often follows the lead of California. We are counting on you to continue to serve as a role model for the nation. Thank you.

Donna Hale
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