DATE

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan

Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

State Capitol, Room 5114

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Adult Protective Services and Public Administrators/Guardians/Conservators:**

**Support $5.75 million State Funding for Training**

Dear Chairman Pan:

[Organization name] is pleased to be part of a large coalition of organizations requesting your support to build upon the existing, and effective, APS Training Program. Specifically, we support an investment of $5.75 million State General Funds (GF) to support statewide training of social work staff in the APS program and to County Public Administrators/Guardians/Conservators (PA/PG/PC).

In 2016 the County Welfare Directors of California (CWDA), the California Commission on Aging (CCoA) and the California Elder Justice Coalition (CEJC) secured a one-time $3 million GF augmentation to enhance the state’s training of Adult Protective Service (APS) workers. The funding was leveraged to draw down another $3 million federal funding for a total of $6 million to support development of an expanded APS curriculum, online training modules, and creation of a certification process for workers who complete the full complement of 23 core competencies. The budget was stretched over this three-year period to train workers in the 58 county-run APS programs and PA/PG/PC staff through ten regional trainings and their annual conference. Unfortunately, this funding will be exhausted by the end of the 2018-19 fiscal-year.

This investment comes at a critical time, as California’s population of older adults continues to dramatically increase. By 2020 one in five Californians—about 8 million residents—will be aged sixty years or older.  That ratio will climb to one in four by 2030. The oldest and potentially most vulnerable population of 85 and older will grow by 143 percent between 1990 and 2020. After 2020, the growth rates will rise even faster, especially between 2030 and 2040 when baby boomers begin turning 85. Without the Legislature’s appropriation of additional funds, the APS training budget will revert to the $76,000 first budgeted in 1998, effectively wiping out the critical training infrastructure that was developed with the $3 million augmentation.

California must be prepared for this “aging wave” in all aspects, including our safety net programs such as APS and PA/PG/PC, which serves those who are most vulnerable to premature death due to abuse and neglect. APS workers provide front-line response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and must be properly trained to conduct investigations on complex cases, engage victims in their own safety planning, and help victims and their families navigate and access services from other systems. While APS are first responders to reports of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, PA/PG/PC protect the rights and assets of Californians with severe dementias, mental illnesses, and disabilities.

APS crosses multiple systems to protect and serve victims of abuse and neglect, working with law enforcement, legal aid programs, the judiciary, long-term care services and many others, and thus is a central component of the state’s elder justice system. PA/PG/PC often work jointly with APS to protect older adults and help them remain in their own homes and communities. A trained and skilled workforce for both APS and PA/PG/PC is essential to protecting this vulnerable population and results in significant savings to the state in terms of avoidance of nursing home care and hospitalizations.

We believe this proposal provides a critical investment in APS and PA/PG/PC services to meet growing need in our local communities, and for this reason we support this request to maintain and increase our investment in APS and PA/PG/PC training.

Sincerely,

*Name*

*Title*

cc: The Honorable Melissa Hurtado, CA State Senate

The Honorable Jeff Stone, CA State Senate

County Welfare Directors Association of California