**Information Supporting This Proposal (AP-2)**

**Proposal Name: Long-Term Care System Integration Act of 2018**

**Author Name: Senior Assembly Member David Wiltsee**

**Co-Authors Name: SAM Brunner, Dorsey, and Epley SS Plasencia and Young**

California’s system of long-term care (LTC) is no simple matter. As many seniors, caregivers, and family members can attest, trying to figure out how to “age in place” with a bit of outside help along the way is a daunting task. Although the State administers a wide variety of separate programs designed to serve and support older adults, agency policies and programs tend to operate independent of one another.

Thus fragmented, the long-term care system is nearly impossible for those needing assistance to navigate without help. Although the best minds in the long-term care field have identified and described this dilemma repeatedly for more than 20 years, real remedies have yet to be adopted.

Drawing upon time-tested public administration experience and “best practices” in delivering long-term care services and supports, this proposal aims to improve the Long-Term Care System by the following:

1. Creates the Office of Policy and Program Integration (OPPI) within the Health and Human Services Agency, answerable to the Agency Director. The OPPI head is appointed by the Governor. [HHSA administers the vast majority of LTC programs]
2. Empowers the OPPI to better integrate and coordinate LTC policies and programs to make sure they work together and be delivered efficiently in tandem (bundled) to consumers. [Horizontal Integration]
3. Establishes the State’s 33 Area Agencies on Aging (AAoAs) as the links between the OPPI and local service providers, in particular the local Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRCs). [Vertical Integration]
4. Requires that every Californian have access to a local ADRC, and empowers the OPPI to provide technical assistance to AAoAs in achieving this goal. [Only 7 of California’s 58 counties presently have an ADRC]. Reaffirms the mission of each ADRC to provide direct LTC services, including: personal needs and program eligibility assessments; options counseling; referral to appropriate service providers; and ongoing case management.
5. Requires the OPPI to reinvent and redefine the CALCareNet information system as a consumer-friendly web site patterned after Minnesota’s Live Well at Home. The AAoAs and ADRCs are charged with keeping CALCareNet’s local services and supports information accurate and up-to-date.
6. Requires the OPPI to draw upon the expertise of the SCAN Foundation and AARP as consultants. Designates the OPPI as the HHSA’s link with the federal Administration for Community Living for all matters of Long-Term Care.
7. Requires the OPPI to submit to the State Senate and Assembly a biennial progress report by February 1 of each odd-numbered year, beginning in 2021.

In time, the Long-Term Care System Integration Act will offer older Californians “one-stop shopping” for the services and supports they need and desire. And, with the aid of AAoAs and their ADRCs, clients will be able easily to alter their menus of services and supports as their personal situations change. The first step, creating and empowering the Office of Policy and Program Integration, is straight-forward and something that should have been done long ago. The real payoff, however, will come as Area Agencies on Aging come to view more broadly their role in serving older adults and as ADRCs put out the welcome mat for seniors, caregivers, and folks with disabilities in need of a friendly guide and a helping hand.