RN1620821 **AP 8**

**INTRODUCED BY SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER KROHN**

Legislative Counsel’s Digest

AP 8: MEDI-CAL WAIVER: HOME-DELIVERED MEALS FOR OLDER ADULTS.

EXISTING LAW ESTABLISHES THE MEDI-CAL PROGRAM, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES, UNDER WHICH QUALIFIED LOW-INCOME PERSONS RECEIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES. THE MEDI-CAL PROGRAM IS, IN PART, GOVERNED AND FUNDED BY FEDERAL MEDICAID PROGRAM PROVISIONS. EXISTING FEDERAL LAW PROVIDES FOR VARIOUS HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES WAIVERS THAT PROMOTE COVERAGE AND SERVICES THAT ENABLE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE INSTITUTIONALIZED TO LIVE AT HOME OR IN THE COMMUNITY.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES FOR A WAIVER TO PROVIDE MEDICALLY PRESCRIBED, NUTRITIOUS, HOME-DELIVERED MEALS TO VULNERABLE OLDER ADULTS.

VOTE MAJORITY.

AP 8: RELATING TO HOME-DELIVERED MEALS FOR OLDER ADULTS

WHEREAS, THE CONSEQUENCES OF FOOD INSECURITY INCLUDE ADVERSE HEALTH CONDITIONS LEADING TO FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS, ACCORDING TO FINDINGS BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; AND

WHEREAS, NUTRITIONAL INTERVENTIONS CAN SIGNIFICANTLY PREVENT OR REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF KNOWN DISEASES, THEREBY REDUCING MEDICATION COSTS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED EXPENSES; AND

WHEREAS, HEALTH CARE COSTS ARE PROJECTED TO RISE TO $4.2 TRILLION BY 2023, WITH CHRONIC ILLNESSES ACCOUNTING FOR 86 PERCENT OF TOTAL HEALTH CARE SPENDING IN THE UNITED STATES; AND

WHEREAS, HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS IN OLDER ADULTS DIFFER FROM THOSE IN YOUNGER POPULATIONS AND REQUIRE A DIET AND NUTRITION THAT REFLECT THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF OLDER ADULTS; AND

WHEREAS, ACCORDING TO THE CENTER FOR HEALTH LAW AND POLICY INNOVATION AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, LONGER LIFE SPANS CAN LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN CHRONIC CONDITIONS, WHICH CAN BE LARGELY PREVENTED BY IMPOSING A QUALITY NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM THAT ADDRESSES DIABETES, HYPERTENSION, AND HEART DISEASE, AMONG OTHER CHRONIC DISEASES; AND

WHEREAS, TITLE III OF THE RECENTLY REAUTHORIZED FEDERAL OLDER AMERICANS ACT COVERS NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMMING THAT INCLUDES CONGREGATE AND HOME-DELIVERED MEALS; AND

WHEREAS, THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP), KNOWN IN CALIFORNIA AS CALFRESH, IS AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING OLDER ADULTS. HOWEVER, ACCESS TO THIS PROGRAM VARIES BY LOCATION AND HAS LIMITED BENEFITS. MANY OLDER ADULTS DO NOT PARTICIPATE DUE TO FEAR OF STIGMA, STRONG VALUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND INDEPENDENCE, OR LACK OF TRANSPORTATION; AND

WHEREAS, SOME OLDER ADULTS ARE NOT AWARE OF CALFRESH OR, IF AWARE OF AND INTERESTED IN THE PROGRAM, DO NOT KNOW HOW TO APPLY. ADDITIONALLY, A CALFRESH RECIPIENT IN A HOUSEHOLD OF ONE MAY ONLY RECEIVE, DEPENDING ON INCOME, $16 TO $194, INCLUSIVE, IN MONTHLY BENEFITS, WHICH MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER MEALS; AND

WHEREAS, SOME, BUT NOT ALL, OLDER ADULTS COVERED BY MEDI-CAL RECEIVE CONGREGATE OR HOME-DELIVERED MEALS THROUGH LIMITED PROGRAMS; AND

WHEREAS, WHILE THERE ARE NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMS THAT EXIST FOR OLDER ADULTS, MANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE LITTLE OR NO ACCESS TO THE PROGRAMS DUE TO LOW INCOMES, CHRONIC HEALTH ISSUES, RESIDENCE IN RURAL AREAS, CITIZENSHIP STATUS, OR LANGUAGE BARRIERS; AND

WHEREAS, IN 2015, THE CENTER FOR HEALTH LAW AND POLICY INNOVATION AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL PUBLISHED THE FOOD IS MEDICINE ADVOCACY TOOLKIT, WHICH GUIDES EFFORTS TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS THAT SERVE FOOD-INSECURE OLDER ADULTS; AND

WHEREAS, IN ADDITION TO THE DIRECT PHYSICAL HEALTH BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH PROPER NUTRITION, HOME-DELIVERED MEALS CAN RESULT IN MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS TO A HOMEBOUND OLDER ADULT BY HAVING DIRECT CONTACT WITH A MEAL DELIVERY PERSON EACH WEEK AND DECREASING ISOLATION AND DEPRESSION. DEPRESSION AMONG OLDER ADULTS INCREASES HEALTH CARE COSTS AND CAN CONTRIBUTE TO PREMATURE DEATH; AND

WHEREAS, THE INCREASE IN PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL FUNCTIONING BY HOME-DELIVERED MEALS CAN LEAD TO HEALTH CARE COST SAVINGS; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY AND THE SENIOR SENATE, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2016 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES FOR A SECTION 1915(C) HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES WAIVER OR ANOTHER TYPE OF WAIVER, TO PROVIDE MEDICALLY PRESCRIBED, NUTRITIOUS, HOME-DELIVERED MEALS TO VULNERABLE OLDER ADULTS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESPECTFULLY MEMORIALIZES THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE CONCERNS SET FORTH IN THIS MEASURE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS MEASURE BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.