



THE ADVOCATE

Volume 1, Issue 2

Summer 2019

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This years' Senior Rally celebrated its 5th anniversary. It was held on the South lawn of the Capitol on May 7th. Over 350 seniors from across the state attended the event. It also included over 20 exhibitors. The weather was perfect and an enjoyable time was had by all that attended. The event was organized by the Seniors Count Coalition.

The program began with welcoming remarks from Senator Mark McGuire. Kevin Prindiville, CEO of Justice in Aging provided the opening remarks. He was followed by Commissioner Cheryl Brown who also provided opening remarks on the current state of seniors.



JOHN POINTER



L -R : Sen Mark McGuire, Commissioner Cheryl Brown, and CEO Kevin Prindiville

The program focus this year was on the "Master Plan On Aging". Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary at the Governor's office, opened this portion of the morning session. Senator Hannah Beth Jackson, ASM Cecilia Aguiar-Curry and ASM Adrin Nazarian also spoke at the morning session.



L-R: Deputy Cabinet Secretary Richard Figueroa, Senator Hannah Beth Jackson, ASM Adrin Nazarian and ASM Cecilia Aguiar Curry

MISSION OF CSL

Helping to preserve and enhance the quality of life of older Californians and their families.

ABOUT CSL

The California Senior Legislature is a volunteer body that was established under California law in 1980. Over its 39 year history the organization has been responsible for more than 200 bills signed into law to help seniors.

THE ADVOCATE is published quarterly and distributed to members and supporting agencies throughout the state.

Editor:

Helen M. Stone

Advisory Committee:

Mark Cox

Allegra Fortunati

Jan Lemucchi

Barbara Sinclair

California Senior Legislature

1020 N Street,

Room 513

Sacramento, CA

95814

(916) 552-8056

www.4csl.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Our Priorities..... 2

Leg Update 2

Advocacy Efforts..... 4

LEG COMMITTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE



ANNE WARREN

March, April and May are extremely busy months for the state legislature with policy hearings in which they hear the bills presented by the authors and those testifying for and in opposition to them. At the same time many of these legislators are attending budget hearings to hear requests for funds which will make up the Governor's revised budget. The budget must be passed by June 15.

CSL members have been busy also testifying for our bills and the support bills and have sent support letters. You can see from the attached report, the status of those bills.

And this is to just get the bills

through the first house, which must be done by May 31. And then we start again testifying and sending support letters as the bills move to the second house for votes.

We are asking for support letters for these bills that will be sent to the policy committees in the next legislative house. Write letters and ask your friends and colleagues to write support letters.

You can also call the district office of your legislator and ask that they vote for the bill. The district office keeps track of all calls, letters and requests of the legislator. Those letters and calls do make a difference.

THIS IS URGENT. Help us get these bills to the Governor's desk. ♦

CSL 2019 PRIORITIES

The CSL announced its Top Ten State and Federal legislative proposals in November 2018. The following is the status of those bills sponsored by legislators.

State

- 1. AB 387 (AP-18) - ASM Gabriel: Labeling of Prescription Drugs** This measure requires physicians and surgeons to include the purpose for which the medication is prescribed on all prescriptions, with that information included on the prescription label, unless the patient requests that this information be omitted. **Status: Assembly – Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations. Amend, and do pass as amended. (Ayes 11. Noes 4.)**
- 2. AB 970 (AP-2) — ASM Salas: Transportation: Seniors' & Disabled Individuals' Access to Transportation to Medical Services** This measure authorizes the use of moneys in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions program for grants to counties to provide transportation to nonemergency medical services for the senior and disabled populations located in rural, desert, and mountain areas through the use of energy renewable vehicles. **Status: Assembly - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Appropriation. (Ayes 15. Noes 0.). Re-referred to Committee on Appropriation. Do pass. (Ayes 18. Noes 0.)**
- 3. SB 725 (SP-7) — Sen. Rubio: Veterans Housing: Affordable Rental Housing** This measure establishes a rental housing assistance program and would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to coordinate access to affordable housing with existing state and federal veterans' services and provide detailed information about the assistance in a specified resource publication. **Status: Senate-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Appropriation. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (April 23). Re-referred to Committee on Appropriation. Do pass. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (May 16).**
- 4. SB 280 (AP-7) — Sen. Jackson: Fall Safe Housing** This measure would amend the Building Homes and Jobs Act to ensure that specific falls prevention structural features designed to prevent falls and facilitate aging in place are built into

Continued on Page 4

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE (cont'd)

The morning program also included presentations by State Treasurer Fiona Ma, Senator Bill Dodd, ASMs Ash Kalra, Shirley Weber, Eloise Gomez Reyes, Blanca Rubio and Jim Wood.



L-R : State Treasurer Fiona Ma, ASM Eloise Gomez Reyes, ASM Blanca Rubio, ASM Shirley Weber, ASM Ash Kalra, ASM Jim Wood, Sen Bill Dodd.

The afternoon session focused on a panel discussion on the Master Plan on Aging moderated by Sarah Steenhausen, Senior Policy Advisor, The SCAN Foundation. Panel members included: Marko Mijic, Acting Deputy Secretary for Program and Fiscal Affairs, CHHS; Susan DeMarois, Director of Government Affairs, Alzheimer's Association; Cheryl Brown, Commissioner, Ca Commission on Aging; Kathleen Kelly, MPA, Executive Director, Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA); Kevin Prindiville, CEO, Justice in Aging.



L-R:
Sara Steenhausen,
Marko Mijic, Susan
DeMarois, Cheryl
Brown, Kathleen
Kelly and Kevin
Prindiville

The afternoon session also included visits with legislators with the focus on the Health and Human Services section of the 2019-20 Governor's Budget that impacts seniors. Legislators assigned to the following committees were the primary focus: Aging and Long Term Care, Assembly and Senate Human Services; and Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services . A similar visitation process occurred in legislative districts across the state using the same budget materials shared with legislators at the Capitol.

The following issues were the focus of the legislative visits:

- Senior Nutrition Programs
- Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
- In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)
- SSI/SSP
- Multi-Purpose Senior Services (MSSP)
- Adult Protective Services (APS) Training/Budget Request
- Long -Term Services and Support

A copy of the Seniors Count Coalition's 2019 Budget Priorities are attached for your reference.

CSL 2019 PRIORITIES (cont'd)

4. SB 280 (AP-7) — Sen. Jackson: Fall Safe Housing (cont'd) new housing using funds generated by the Act. **Status: Senate - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Appropriation. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (April 22). Re-referred to Committee on Appropriation. Do pass. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (May 16)**

5. SB 695 (AP-8) — ASM Portantino: Affordable Housing for the Elderly This measure would classify housing units participating in a home-sharing arrangement in which at least one of the occupants is an elderly person who qualifies as a person of low or moderate income, as defined, as very low income households. **Status: Senate - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Appropriation (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (April 22). Re-referred to Committee on Appropriation. Do pass. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (May 16).**

6. AB 50 - ASM Kalra: Medi-Cal: Assisted Living Waiver Program This bill requires the Dept. of Health Care Services to submit a request for renewal of the Assisted Living program with specified amendments to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in 2019. **Status: Assembly - From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Committee on Appropriation (Ayes 15. Noes 0.) (April 23). Re-referred to Committee on Appropriation. Do pass. (Ayes 18. Noes 0.) (May 16).**

7. AB 480 - ASM Salas: Mental Health: Older Adults. This bill would establish within the State Department of Health Care Services an Older Adult Mental Health Services Administrator to oversee mental health services for older adults. **Status: Assembly - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Appropriation (Ayes 15. Noes 0.) (April 23). Re-referred to Committee on Appropriation. Do pass. (Ayes 18. Noes 0.) (May 16)**

Federal

HR 1788 (SFP 2) Congresswoman Hill To amend title XVIII of Social Security Act to limit the penalty for late enrollment under Part B of Medicare Program to 15 percent and twice the period of no enrollment and exclude periods of COBRA, retiree, and VA coverage from such late enrollment fee . Status: Assigned to Energy and Commerce Committee and Ways and Means Committee. ♦

A copy of the entire May 2019 CSL Legislative Report is attached for your reference.

2019 ANNUAL SESSION OCTOBER 31- NOVEMBER 2 STATE CAPITOL

The Annual Session is conducted each year to develop legislative proposals at both the State and Federal levels. Our legislative priorities for the coming legislative session are identified and submitted to legislators to sponsor and seek the their passage and ultimately go to the Governor for signing into law.

DONATE TO CODE 438

The California Senior Legislature has been working to improve the lives of California's six million seniors since 1981. This nonpartisan organization has sponsored over 200 new laws helping seniors with financial abuse, health care, the Silver Alert program, and more.

The California Senior Legislature is entirely dependent on tax deductible donations from people like you. Support the California Senior Legislature this tax season. **Donate to Code 438.**



CALIFORNIA STATE VOLUNTARY TAX CONTRIBUTION FORM

Habitat for Humanity Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund.....	437		.00
California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund.....	438		.00
Native California Wildlife Rehabilitation Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund.....	439		.00
Add code 400 through code 440. This is your total contribution.....	110		.00

Donate to Code 438.
Tell your tax preparer
to check Code 438 on
your state income tax
return.