



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 3/25/2019

Agenda Placement: 7A

## Napa County Legislative Subcommittee Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Napa County Legislative Subcommittee  
**FROM:** Mary Booher for Minh Tran - County Executive Officer  
County Executive Office  
**REPORT BY:** Molly Rattigan, Deputy County Executive Officer - 253-4112  
**SUBJECT:** AB 229 (Nazarian)-Threshold Language Translation for IHSS

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Executive Officer requests discussion and possible action on AB 229 (Nazarian), a bill that would require the California Department of Social Services to translate all web content and notices to In-Home Supportive Services providers in the State's threshold languages.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

AB 229 would require the California Department of Social Services to translate all written notices and web content intended for IHSS providers in the state threshold languages: English, Spanish, Armenian and Chinese.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program provides personal care and domestic services to Medi-Cal eligible seniors and persons with disabilities to help them remain safely in their own homes and communities. Approximately 560,000 IHSS recipients will receive services in 2019-2020. Statewide, it is estimated that about 40 percent of providers (about 205,000) speak or read a primary language other than English.

Current state law and regulations require the California Department of Social Services to translate notices and resources for IHSS recipients into the four most common languages spoken by recipients. No such requirement exists for IHSS providers. If a provider is unable to understand the already complicated IHSS rules, it may jeopardize their pay, and ultimately, their job.

AB 229 would require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to translate all written notices and web content intended for IHSS providers in the state threshold languages: English, Spanish, Armenian and Chinese.

AB 229 was previously introduced as AB 1909 in the 2017-2018 legislative session. Amendments have been made to the bill to permit CDSS to work with counties and the County Welfare Directors Association to repurpose existing, county-produced translations of written materials.

Rural County Representatives of California: No position  
California State Association of Counties: Support

#### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . AB 229

B . AB 229 Fact Sheet

Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan