



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 4/8/2019

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 50-Assisted Living Waiver

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Executive Officer requests discussion and possible action on AB 50 (Kalra), a bill that incrementally increases the cap of available Assisted Living Medi-Cal Waivers from 5,744 to 18,500 and allows greater statewide availability to the program, to meet the needs of eligible older adults and people with disabilities.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

AB 50 (Kalra), is a bill that incrementally increases the cap of available Assisted Living Medi-Cal Waivers (ALW) from 5,744 to 18,500 and allows greater statewide availability to the program, to meet the needs of eligible older adults and people with disabilities. The ALW program allows individuals to be cared for in a community-based setting or an assisted-living setting rather than a skilled nursing facility. Additionally, the waiver is currently unavailable to Napa County recipients. AB 50 would expand the program to include eligible Napa County residents.

### **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**

Medi-Cal waivers operate under the Medi-Cal program and provide specified groups of individuals a defined set of services that may not be available under the broader Medi-Cal program. Under this waiver the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) must obtain both legislative approval, as well as approval from the federal government to administer it. The waivers must not cost the federal government more than the expected Medicaid costs for the traditional Medicaid population under the same time period.

The Assisted Living Waiver (ALW), referred to as a Medi-Cal Home and Community Based Waiver, allows counties to offer a variety of services to eligible individuals, including a combination of both traditional medical services and non-medical services. The ALW program serves older adults and persons with disabilities who meet requirements for Medicaid coverage of nursing facility care, but who prefer to reside in a community-based setting. The program is offered in two settings: Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly or publicly subsidized housing. Eligibility is limited to Medi-Cal beneficiaries over the age of 21. Services include, but are not limited to: assistance with activities of daily living; health related services including skilled nursing; transportation; recreational activities; and housekeeping.

The number of available participant slots is 5,744 and slots are only available to a small list of 15 counties, of which Napa County is not included. Within the 15 eligible counties, there is a waitlist of 4,491 individuals seeking the waiver.

The ALW is a cost-saver for the state because it is designed as an alternative to long-term care placement in a nursing facility. The estimated General Fund savings based on the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget act was \$7 million dollars--assuming that 60% of the increased slots included the transition from a skilled nursing facility. It is estimated that 11% of the 101,000 nursing home residents are identified as having low-care needs and could be cared for in a community-based setting.

The expansion of the program beyond the 15 counties will allow Napa County residents to have the option to seek a ALW when appropriate.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . AB 50

B . AB 50- Fact Sheet

Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan