



State of California

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April 13, 2015

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Executive Director

The Honorable Carol Liu
Senator, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5097
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 547

Dear Senator Liu:

The Little Hoover Commission supports Senate Bill 547, the measure you have authored that would establish a Department of Community Living within the California Health and Human Services Agency and an assistant secretary responsible for coordinating aging and long-term care.

In its 2011 report, *A Long-Term Strategy for Long-Term Care*, the Commission found a fractured long-term care system, lacking a state-level long-term care champion to develop and coordinate strategy across programs and departments and support local government's efforts to integrate long-term care services. With responsibility for long-term care diffused across departments and no single person in charge of more than three dozen long-term care programs, the Commission recommended the state consolidate all its long-term care programs and funding into a single long-term care entity within the Health and Human Services Agency. By consolidating, this department would be better positioned to effectively oversee the management, integration and coordination of locally-delivered services around the consumer.

Further, the Commission recommended that the state develop a strategy for the future of long-term care in California that accounts for the continuum of care needs that individual seniors or people with disabilities might need. Beyond articulating vision, the Commission recommended the plan be formulated with the input of key stakeholders and present actionable strategies that would implement the vision.

Senate Bill 547 would implement the Commission's recommendations and as a result, the Commission supports this measure.

As the bill moves through the legislative process, I will be writing letters on behalf of the Commission to legislators urging aye votes. If you have any questions, or if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission