

CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES FOR NURSING HOME REFORM

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May 27, 2008

Assembly Member Mervyn M. Dymally, Chair
Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 483 (Kuehl) - Support

Dear Assembly Member Dymally:

On behalf of California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR), I want to express our support for SB 483, which would amend the Welfare and Institutions Code to implement the Medicaid provisions of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

The federal Deficit Reduction Act requires states to impose specific limitations on eligibility for applicants and beneficiaries of home and facility care services that are subject to Medicaid/Medi-Cal reimbursement. States are required to implement these provisions or risk loss of federal financial participation.

While long term care advocates have been greatly concerned about the onerous impact of the DRA provisions on long term care consumers around the country, California's Department of Health Care Services has been very judicious in drafting these provisions to ensure that aged and disabled consumers are not unfairly denied needed services.

SB 483, by including, among other provisions, that the laws will be prospectively applied, will protect those applicants and beneficiaries who have relied on current law for their eligibility. In addition, SB 483 incorporates substantial hardship provisions to protect those consumers who would otherwise be denied life-sustaining services.

We are anxious to protect our most vulnerable long term care consumers and support SB 483.

Sincerely,

Pat McGinnis
Executive Director

Cc: Members, Assembly Health Committee