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April 18, 2014

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4016  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Assemblymember Wieckowski:

**RE: AB 2171 (Wieckowski) – As introduced February 20, 2014 – SUPPORT**

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 2171, which would establish specified rights for residents of residential care facilities for the elderly (RCFE) and create a mechanism to enforce these rights and would require a facility staff person to personally advise a resident of these rights.

This legislation would establish a statutory Bill of Rights that ensures the basic dignity and autonomy of RCFE residents including: visitation, privacy, personalized care, informed consent, financial management, and freedom from abuse, neglect, restraint, exploitation or endangerment.

The County of San Bernardino's certified Ombudsmen are authorized by Federal and State law to receive, investigate and resolve complaints made by or on behalf of residents living in skilled nursing or assisted living facilities for the elderly. AB 2171 would complement the work of the local Ombudsmen advocacy efforts on behalf of residents living in long-term facilities throughout San Bernardino County.

AB 2171 would also establish a private right of action to give residents the opportunity to enforce their rights when they are being mistreated, The private right of action would empower RCFE residents or their representative to sue for injunctive relief and limited damages, including attorney's fees.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports AB 2171 and thanks you for addressing this important issue. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, at (909) 387-4821.

Sincerely,

JANICE RUTHERFORD  
Board of Supervisors Chair  
Second District Supervisor  
County of San Bernardino

c: Members and Consultants, Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee  
County of San Bernardino Legislative Delegation