



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Shirley Weber
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2739 (Weber) – As introduced 2/20/2020 - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblywoman Weber:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 2739, legislation that would increase the personal and incidental needs payment from \$35 to \$80 per month for a person in a medical institution, nursing facility, or for a person receiving institutional or non-institutional services from a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) organization. The bill would also require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to annually increase this payment based on the California Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Existing law requires DHCS to establish income levels for maintenance needs at the lowest levels that reasonably permits a medically-needy individual to meet his or her basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter, and for which federal financial participation will still be provided under applicable federal law.

In more than 30 years, California has not increased the personal and incidental needs amount or revised the calculation methodology. The personal and incidental needs payment for institutionalized Medi-Cal beneficiaries has remained at \$35 since 1985 however, the inflation rate over the same time period has increased by 139%.

Individuals living in long term care facilities need adequate funding to meet their basic incidental needs. This will improve their independence and enhance their quality of life.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports AB 2739. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman".

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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