



MARK H. UFFER  
County Administrative Officer

COUNTY OF  
SAN BERNARDINO

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE  
AFFAIRS

385 North Arrowhead Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110  
(909) 387-4821  
FAX: (909) 387-9090

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LANCE M. LARSON  
Director of Legislative Affairs

November 2, 2009

The Honorable Denise Ducheny, Chair  
The Honorable Robert Dutton, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 69** (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) - As Proposed to be Amended - **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Ducheny and Vice Chair Dutton,

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors supports SB 69 as it is proposed to be amended today on the Assembly floor. This legislation is urgently needed to ensure that In-Home Supportive Services recipients can receive services they need to keep them safely at home rather than institutionalized in nursing homes and to ensure that important program integrity efforts are effective.

As heard at the joint oversight hearing last Wednesday, implementation of the new IHSS provider enrollment process established in the 2009-10 budget has been marred by a lack of input from stakeholders. Counties have yet to receive complete instructions, and funding to implement the requirements has yet to arrive, leaving no time to hire and train the necessary staff to do this new work. The State computer system currently does not allow providers to be paid until they are fully approved, which will take weeks to implement. Currently, our vulnerable clients will be caught in the middle, and our existing program integrity efforts undermined.

County staff has been unprepared to manage the massive demand for answers to questions regarding the new enrollment process for providers. In San Bernardino County alone, staff is faced with overcrowded lobbies and a large amount of inquires with insufficient information for us to provide answers. This has led to a major disruption in our ability to provide services and perform necessary work.

Because of these valid concerns shared by our County as well as numerous other stakeholders, we support SB 69 as proposed to be amended today. This urgent legislation will ensure that the process approved by the Legislature is properly implemented, while allowing IHSS recipients to receive needed services the County has authorized. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the County's Office of Legislative Affairs, at (909) 387-4821. The Board thanks you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

**GARY C. OVITT**  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, San Bernardino Legislative Delegation

*The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.*