



September 22, 2017

Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor of California  
Capitol Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1379 (THURMOND) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown:

The California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA), is proud to support AB 1379 and requests your signature.

The California In Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA) is committed to improving and enhancing the lives of all those who use and provide In-Home Supportive Services. CICA is committed to empowering recipients, family, friends, community members and providers by offering education, training and networking opportunities. CICA believes that building collaborations among IHSS Public Authority Advisory Committees, and all stakeholders, will strengthen the recipient voice to elected officials, policy makers, and the public.

AB 1379 increases resources for local jurisdictions to ensure local building inspectors have the appropriate training and skills to assist businesses to comply with state and federal disability access laws when reviewing building plans for new construction or renovations. The bill extends the sunset on the business license fee currently collected by local jurisdictions. The measure also temporarily increases and collects a \$4 (instead of \$1) fee on business licenses and renewals. For jurisdictions with no business license fee, it allows this fee to be collected from building permits. AB 1379 allows the local jurisdictions to temporarily retain 90% of the fee instead of the current 70% which will be placed in a special fund for increased CASp certification and training activities.

Many local jurisdictions do not have sufficient resources to provide Certified Access Specialist training and certification for local building inspectors. Without the resources for appropriate training and certification, local building inspectors do not have the skills and knowledge to ensure that building plans they review comply with state and federal disability access laws. Some jurisdictions do not require business licenses. AB 1379 allows those jurisdictions that do not issue business licenses to still collect a fee by including building permits within the fee provisions.

Building inspector CASps play an essential role in ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities as they provide permitting and plan check services for new construction and renovations. Inspectors provide assistance to businesses so that their new building construction and renovations are compliant with state and federal disability access laws upfront thereby limiting subsequent legal challenges. This bill increases resources to ensure a balanced approach to address the needs of the disability and business communities, and local jurisdictions.

Additionally, the allocation of fee percentages between local jurisdictions and the Department of the State Architect (DSA) ensure that funding amounts are not reduced, thus maintaining the necessary state resources for the DSA to administer the CASp examination.

For these reasons, we are proud to support this bill and request your signature. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position.

Thank you,

*Charles Bean*

CHARLES BEAN  
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Tony Thurmond, California State Assembly  
Rodolfo Rivera Aquino, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member  
Thurmond  
Graciela Castillo-Krings, Legislative Affairs, Office of Governor Brown  
Daniel Gutierrez, Legislative Affairs, Office of Governor Brown