



California Association of
Public Authorities for IHSS

1127 11th Street, Suite 701
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916) 492-9111
Karen@keeslar.net
www.capaihss.org

February 28, 2018

The Honorable Blanca Rubio, Chair
Assembly Human Services Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1909 (Nazarian) – IHSS – Written Translations
Co-Sponsor**

Dear Assembly Member Rubio;

The California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS is pleased to co-sponsor AB 1909 by Assembly Member Nazarian. This bill requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to translate information notices and resources for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) providers into the CDSS threshold languages: English, Spanish, Armenian, and Cantonese.

Current state law and regulations require CDSS to translate information notices and resources for IHSS recipients into the four most common languages spoken by IHSS recipients (known as the “CDSS threshold languages”). However, no such requirement exists for IHSS providers. The result is that an estimated 40 percent of IHSS providers (roughly 200,000 individuals) receive program instructions, timesheets, tax notices, forms, and other important materials in a language that they do not understand. To mitigate this disparity, some counties have developed their own translations of key provider materials, despite no requirement or funding to do so.

The development of the new IHSS electronic timesheet website by the state exemplifies the translation disparity between providers and consumers. The website was designed to make IHSS timesheets and payment easier for providers. However, because current law requires that the state translate materials for IHSS recipients but not providers, the only portions of the website translated into the threshold languages were those portions intended for the consumer. Other portions, aimed at provider use, are available only in English. With the timesheets only available electronically, counties cannot develop their own supplemental materials. Providers who do not speak English are simply left out.

By ensuring that the same language translation rules that apply to IHSS recipients also apply to providers, AB 1909 will reduce duplicated workload, reduce errors due to confusion or lack of understanding, provide consistency across the state, and move IHSS toward equity for all IHSS providers.

For these reasons, CAPA supports AB 1909 and respectfully requests your “Aye” vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Keeslar".

Karen Keeslar, Executive Director

cc: Members & consultants, Assembly Human Services Committee
Assembly Member Nazarian