



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

August 30, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 477 (Cervantes) – Emergency preparedness: vulnerable populations.
SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS (CAPA) respectfully your signature to enact Assembly Bill 477, by Assembly Member Cervantes, which will strengthen emergency preparedness plans for cities and counties by ensuring representatives from the access and functional needs communities are included in those discussions.

Seniors and people with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted by recent disasters and, accordingly, there is a need to ensure that emergency plans are more responsive to the needs of these populations. By incorporating representatives from access and functional needs populations into the process, emergency plans will be better formulated to meet the needs of these populations and facilitate more effective communication and coordination during emergency incidents.

We cannot allow our most vulnerable communities to suffer in silence. We must ensure that we create emergency plans that address the needs of individuals who need additional assistance, including: those with intellectual and developmental disabilities; individuals with physical disabilities; those with limited English proficiency or who are non-English speaking; seniors; children; people living in institutionalized settings; and individuals experiencing homelessness. This bill will help assemble emergency plans that work for all members of our community, and ensure that when disasters happen, no one is left behind.

For these reasons, CAPA supports AB 477 and respectfully requests your signature to enact the measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Keeslar", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Karen Keeslar, CAPA Executive Director

Cc: Assembly Member Cervantes