



August 31, 2019

SENATE FLOOR ALERT

**AB 911 (Rodriguez) – Office of Emergency Services:
911 Emergency Communication System**

SUPPORT AS AMENDED 8/30/19

The California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS (CAPA) supports AB 911, by Assembly Member Rodriguez, which require the Office of Emergency Services to complete a study to determine the feasibility of developing a statewide system that would enable all Californians, including older adults, individuals with disabilities, and other at-risk persons, to voluntarily provide vital health and safety information, with an encrypted connection, to be made available to all first responders in an emergency if a “911” call is placed.

Cal OES is currently tasked with transitioning from an analog 911 system to Next Generation 911, an upgraded digital system with location services and dynamic call routing. Although these are significant improvements to the current system, the state’s 911 system should also be updated to meet the unique needs of persons with cognitive, intellectual, developmental, and/or mental health disabilities who may be unable to clearly communicate to first responders during emergencies. AB 911 would explore the feasibility of creating a statewide system to allow individuals to make available such personal information as the type of disability, signals of distress, calming strategies, special medical conditions, emergency contacts, and photographs, all in advance of an emergency. The system could ultimately save precious time and assist first responders to make informed decisions about the best course of action.

AB 911 could create a roadmap to improve the ability of first responders to provide assist seniors and people with disabilities. For these reasons, CAPA supports AB 911 and respectfully asks for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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

Karen Keeslar, CAPA Executive Director

Cc: Assembly Member Rodriguez