



735 P Street, Unit C4, Eureka, CA 95501 – www.cicaihss.org

June 19, 2020

State Senator Bill Dodd
State Capitol, Room 5063
Sacramento, CA 95814

Support of SB 862 Planned power outage: public safety. (2020-21)

Senator Bill Dodd,

The California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA) is in strong support of “[SB 862 – Planned Power Outage: Public Safety.](#)”

CICA is a non-profit membership organization in the State of California. We have 34 members promoting the education, wellness, and advice to County and State Departments regarding the State’s IHSS program.

SB 862 expands on existing law to broaden the Power Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) protocol requirements by:

- Clarifying that the term ‘sudden and severe energy shortage’ as used in the Emergency Services Act, includes a PSPS event and specifies that a PSPS event begins at the time a utility issues a notice of a possible upcoming power outage.
- Requiring an IOU, as part of its public safety mitigation protocols, to include protocols that deal specifically with access and functional need individuals, including those individuals who are enrolled in the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program.
- Requiring an IOU to coordinate with local governments in its service territory to identify sites where community resource centers can be established and ensure the center has a back-up energy source during the time of the PSPS and can be open 24 hours if necessary.

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CICA believes being prepared at the beginning of a PSPS will save the State as well as Recipients/Care Providers of the State's IHSS program money and time! Many individuals under the IHSS program depend on power for life supporting equipment (ventilators, power chairs, etc.). With planned notices individuals can better prepare for their needs!

If you have any questions regarding CICA's support for SB 862, please contact me at (707) 441-1974 or email: info@cicaihss.org.

Respectfully,

Charles Bean

CHARLES BEAN
Executive Director

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