



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AREA BOARD 10

*Protecting and Advocating for Persons with
Developmental Disabilities in Los Angeles County*

January 7, 2010

The Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 5158
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 682 (Lowenthal)
Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Lowenthal,

Developmental Disabilities Area Board 10 is a state agency mandated to protect and assert the legal, civil, and service rights of people with developmental disabilities in Los Angeles County. California has a system of 13 Area Boards, covering all regions of the state. It is on behalf of our Board of Directors and over 70,000 people with a developmental disability who reside in Los Angeles County that I write today to convey our support for AB 682 (Lowenthal).

Although current law requires IHSS providers to pay for the criminal background checks, your bill permits counties and nonprofit consortiums to pay for the criminal background checks for IHSS providers. By giving counties and nonprofit consortiums the option of paying for the background check (and possibly recouping it from the federal government), providers may not necessarily be required to do so.

People receiving IHSS services are frequently living on SSI/SSP benefits. Also, IHSS providers may pass the cost of the criminal background check to the person receiving IHSS. Given that many IHSS recipients are living on a fixed income of less than \$900 per month, paying for a criminal background check would be especially onerous for them. Additionally, IHSS providers typically make a very modest income, possibly even earning minimum wage in some areas and requiring them to pay for the background check would be onerous for them.

Depending on the actions of counties and nonprofit consortiums, your bill may alleviate the financial burden placed upon IHSS providers and recipients to pay for the criminal background check.

We thank you for your consideration of our input. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Cathy Blin, Chair, Governmental Affairs Committee

411 North Central Avenue • Suite 620 • Glendale, CA 91203-2020
Voice: 818/543-4631 • Fax: 818/543-4635

cc: Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Mr. Geoff Long, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members of the Assembly Human Services Committee
Mr. Eric Gelber, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services Committee
Honorable Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Mr. Bob Franzoia, Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members of the Senate Human Services Committee
Mr. Jack Hailey, Consultant, Senate Human Services Committee
Ms. Sue North, Consultant, Senate Human Services Committee