



**Disability Action Coalition &
California Alliance for Retired Americans
Joint Policy Platform:**



Long Term Services and Supports Options

SB 512 (Pan) & \$1 million budget ask

This bill is the first step to create an important option in providing for long term services and supports, specifically for people with disabilities and older adults who do not qualify for Medi-Cal. It would establish the California Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Benefits Board to oversee an alternative LTSS benefit/program.

SB 512 would also establish the California LTSS Benefits Trust to manage and invest money made available, from a source to be determined, to pay for LTSS for eligible people with mobility, sensory, intellectual/developmental, and mental health disabilities. It would also establish the California LTSS Advisory Committee to provide recommendations to the Board.

In addition, we also support the companion budget proposal to spend \$1 million for a study to determine how much a new benefit would cost and the potential service options. The bill is sponsored by the California Aging and Disability Alliance (CADA) which is an alliance of cross-disability, aging and worker organizations. CFILC and CARA are both members of CADA.

Increase SSI/SSP Base Grant and Reinstate COLA

AB 1434 (Kalra)

This bill supports the budget ask to increase individual SSI/SSP (Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Program) grants from \$889 per month (90% Federal Poverty Level, FPL), to \$1,099 per month (112% FPL). This bill would also reinstate the COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) beginning January 1 of the 2020 calendar year.

SSI is a Federally- funded income support program for older persons and persons with disabilities and SSP is a state supplement to the federal program. The California SSP has been reduced to the lowest legal amount.

From 2008 to 2012, \$4.6 billion has been shifted from SSP, reducing SSP payments by \$77 per month. This has impacted the lives of 1.3 million SSI/SSP recipients. Today's total monthly payments are still \$30 less than five years ago. By eliminating the cost-of-living adjustment, Californians with disabilities and older adults have lost an additional \$161/month, which would have gone a long way toward meeting critical needs, such as: housing, nutrition, medical and additional daily living expenses. As a result, an increasing number of Californians with disabilities and older adults are facing homelessness, housing insecurity, hunger and a lack of access to healthy, nutritious food.