

Date

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California
Honorable Members, California State Legislature

RE: SUPPORT CAREGIVER RESOURCE CENTERS BUDGET REQUEST FY2022-23 – BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND EXPANDING CAPACITY TO MEET THE GOALS OF THE CALIFORNIA MASTER PLAN FOR AGING - \$20M ANNUAL INCREASE

I am writing in strong support of the California Caregiver Resource Centers FY22-23 Budget Request of \$20M annual increase to Build Partnerships and Expand Capacity to Meet the Goals of the California Master Plan for Aging.

(Please put in a sentence about who you are (e.g., I am a (professional) who works with family caregivers, or I am a former family caregiver who knows the devastating impacts that family caregivers face)

The California Caregiver Resource Centers are the primary organizations serving unpaid family caregivers of adults with dementias such as Alzheimer's disease and other disorders that cause cognitive impairments. They have been doing so since 1984. Compared to caregivers polled by state and national surveys, caregivers served by the CRCs provide more complex and intense care, with 90.4% providing a high level of care. Most caregivers (78.6%) assist with at least one medical/nursing task and 72.9% spend more than 40 hours per week caregiving. Despite these heavy demands, 70% receive no paid help. For families who cannot afford the high price of providing in-home care through an outside agency, services provided by the Caregiver Resource Centers are critical.

Adding \$20 million per year will allow the 11 CRCs to expand their capacities to support unpaid family caregivers, by doubling the amount of respite grants that are available, providing intensive education and training to 80,000 family caregivers and serving a diverse group of caregivers by offering culturally sensitive and language appropriate services to any caregiver in California who needs support.

As California continues to promote home- and community-based care through the Master Plan for Aging and waiver programs, the importance and needs of family caregivers cannot be overlooked. Alzheimer's and other dementias increase in an aging society and require healthy and capable caregivers to provide competent care. Please support this mature program in continuing to provide much-needed services across the State.

Thank you for your support of the California Caregiver Resource Centers (CRCs) and the unpaid workforce they serve.

To find the CRC in your area, please go to: www.caregivercalifornia.org

Sincerely,

Your name

(Title, as appropriate)

Zip Code: _____