

May 7, 2018

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1026 (Jackson) Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities: fall prevention – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lara:

On behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to support SB 1026 (Jackson) to address much needed support for fall prevention programs for older adults and those with disabilities.

Unintentional falls are the leading cause of injury-related emergency room visits and hospitalizations for adults aged 65 or older, with those over age 85 being seven times more likely to die. The number of unintentional falls continues to increase each year as the senior population continues to grow at an astounding rate. This all translates to a huge rise in hospital costs equaling millions of dollars each year and, for many patients in Monterey County, that means expenses to Medi-Cal.

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. That can lead to physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. Although the response may be understandable, it is the opposite of what is prescribed by senior service professionals. Studies show that active seniors engaging with their community have healthier and more satisfying lives.

It is important to safeguard older adults and persons with disabilities by providing cost-effective supports so they can age in place with dignity. For all these reasons, Monterey County supports SB 1026.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Hannah Beth Jackson
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Debra Cooper, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Joe Parra, Republican Human Services Policy Consultant
The Honorable Bill Monning, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Cannella, California State Senate
The Honorable Anna Caballero, California State Assembly
The Honorable Mark Stone, California State Assembly

California State Association of Counties