



May 15, 2025

Assemblyperson Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 561 (Quirk-Silva) Restraining orders SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wicks:

The Agency on Aging Area 4 (AAA4) writes to express our strong support for AB 561 (Quirk-Silva). This bill amends California law to improve access to and procedures for obtaining restraining orders, focusing on three main types: civil harassment, domestic violence, and elder or dependent adult protective orders.

The bill makes a number of process changes including requiring the courts to permit electronic filing of petitions at no cost to the petitioner and to allow remote court appearances for parties, support persons, and witnesses at no charge. For elder or dependent adult protective orders, the bill mandates that by April 1, 2026, courts must accept electronic filings and allow remote appearances. The bill also requires superior courts to develop and post local rules for electronic filing and remote appearances and authorizes the Judicial Council to adopt or amend rules and forms to implement these provisions.

These changes aim to make the restraining order process more accessible, convenient, and less intimidating for petitioners.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 561 (Quirk-Silva).

Respectfully,

Dr. Catheryn Koss, JD, PhD
Agency on Aging Area 4 Advisory Council Chair