



May 15, 2025

Assemblyperson Mia Bonta, Chair
Assembly Committee on Health
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1161 (Harabedian) Public social services: state of emergency or health emergency SUPPORT

Dear Chair Bonta:

The Agency on Aging Area 4 (AAA4) writes to express our strong support for AB 1161 (Harabedian). This bill adds provisions to California law to ensure continuous eligibility for several social services and health care programs during a state of emergency.

The bill requires the Department of Social Services to maintain eligibility for programs like CalFresh and In-Home Supportive Services, while the Department of Health Care Services will do the same for Medi-Cal. Older adults and persons with disabilities will automatically maintain their current benefits for at least 90 calendar days from the emergency proclamation, with eligibility continuing through the emergency's conclusion. The bill would also require a county to immediately restore eligibility for the applicable program for any recipient or beneficiary whose eligibility was discontinued and who informs the county that they have been impacted as described above, without requesting any further verifications from the recipient or beneficiary.

These changes will help protect the rapidly growing population of older adults and persons with disabilities during times of evacuation and relocation caused by disasters.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1161 (Harabedian).

Respectfully,

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