



May 15, 2025

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

RE: AB 517 (Krell) Complex Rehabilitation Technology: Wheelchairs SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wicks:

The Agency on Aging Area 4 (AAA4) writes to express our strong support for AB 517 (Bains). This bill modifies the Medi-Cal program's rules for complex rehabilitation technology (CRT), specifically focusing on powered wheelchairs.

The bill focuses on complex rehabilitation technology (CRT) such as specialized medical equipment individually configured to meet a patient's unique medical and functional needs, such as customized wheelchairs and related accessories. Last year, SB 1384 (Dodd) provided that powered wheelchairs could be repaired in a competitive manner, not just by the manufacturer. This bill furthers support of that by prohibiting the California Department of Health Care Services from requiring prior authorization for wheelchair repairs costing \$1,250 or less.

When a powered wheelchair has already been approved for a patient, subsequent repair or replacement requests will not need an individual prescription or additional medical necessity documentation. The focus is to streamline the repair process for CRT-powered wheelchairs while ensuring proper documentation and accountability for Medi-Cal beneficiaries who rely on these essential mobility devices.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 517 (Krell).

Respectfully,

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