



COUNTY OF YOLO

Board of Supervisors

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625 Court Street, Room 204 • Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8195 • FAX (530) 666-8193
www.yolocounty.org

County Administrator, **Patrick S. Blacklock**
Deputy Clerk of the Board, **Julie Dachtler**

March 20, 2018

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support AB 1909 (Nazarian) – Language Translation for IHSS Providers

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

Yolo County supports Assembly Bill 1909, which requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to translate information notices and resources for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) providers into the CDSS threshold languages: English, Spanish, Armenian, and Cantonese.

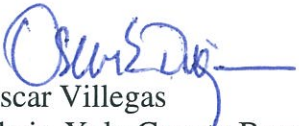
Current state law and regulations require CDSS to translate information notices and resources for IHSS recipients into the four most common languages spoken by IHSS recipients (known as the “CDSS threshold languages”). However, no such requirement exists for IHSS providers. The result is that an estimated 40 percent of IHSS providers (roughly 200,000 individuals) receive program instructions, timesheets, tax notices, forms, and other important materials in a language that they do not understand. To mitigate this disparity, some counties have developed their own translations of key provider materials, despite no requirement or funding to do so.

The development of the new IHSS electronic timesheet website by the state exemplifies the translation disparity between providers and consumers. The website was designed to make IHSS timesheets and payment easier for providers. However, because current law requires that the state translate materials for IHSS recipients but not providers, the only portions of the website translated into the threshold languages were those portions intended for the consumer. Other portions, aimed at provider use, are available only in English. With the timesheets only available electronically, counties cannot develop their own supplemental materials. Providers who do not speak English are simply left out.

By ensuring that the same language translation rules that apply to IHSS recipients also apply to providers, AB 1909 will reduce duplicated workload, reduce errors due to confusion or lack of understanding, provide consistency across the state, and move IHSS toward equity for all IHSS providers.

For these reasons, Yolo County supports AB 1909 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote.

Sincerely,


Oscar Villegas
Chair, Yolo County Board of Supervisors

CC: The Honorable Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian
Jared Yoshiki, Assembly Republican Caucus
Alex Khan, Assembly Republican Caucus
Cathy Senderling-McDonald, County Welfare Directors Association of California (Sponsor)
Karen Keeslar, County Association of Public Authorities (Co-sponsor)
Kristina Bas Hamilton, UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 (Co-sponsor)