



March 21, 2022

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
California State Assembly  
1021 O St., Ste. 6350  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1618 (Aguiar-Curry) Healthy Brain Initiative – SUPPORT AND REQUEST AMENDMENTS**

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write in support of your AB 1618, which would establish the Office of the Healthy Brain Initiative in the California Department of Public Health to conduct all department activities relating to Alzheimer's disease. CSAP respectfully requests that the bill be further amended so that the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee will also include a psychiatrist licensed and currently practicing in California.

The number of Californians 65 and older living with Alzheimer's disease is projected to more than double by the year 2040. While California's population is expected to grow by just 16 percent by 2040, the number of people living with Alzheimer's will grow by 127 percent.

Nearly 700,000 people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's in California now. Of people aged 45 and older, nearly 12 percent have subjective cognitive decline. More than one million family caregivers bear the burden of the disease in California, giving an estimated 884 million hours of unpaid Alzheimer's care.

To help public health leaders chart a course to prepare their communities for Alzheimer's and other dementias, the Alzheimer's Association and the CDC together developed the "Healthy Brain Initiative State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map." This guidebook leads state and local changes in policies, systems, and environments.

In 2020 six counties were awarded \$750,000 each to implement portions of the HBI Road Map. Over the last two years, Shasta, Placer, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Los Angeles, and San Diego counties' public health offices have worked on a variety of strategies to help build awareness around dementia, as well as to provide strategies and solutions that engage these communities.

Additionally, the state's Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Task Force and the Master Plan for Aging reinforce the continued focus on HBI programs, aligning with the Road Map. The Alzheimer's Task Force has among its recommendations a public awareness campaign on Alzheimer's disease. Finally, the Master Plan for Aging recommends the development of a plan for an equity-focused dementia-prevention public health campaign.

In addition to establishing the Office of the Healthy Brain Initiative at CDPH, AB 1618 continues a

competitive grant program with awards in at least 10 local health jurisdictions to develop local initiatives consistent with the Centers for Disease Control's Healthy Brain Initiative. Last, AB 1618 updates the membership of the Alzheimer's disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee, created in 1988, to better reflect the needs of Today.

AB 1618 is critical to building a California that can support the 690,000 people currently living with Alzheimer's disease. Given the important role for public health entities for individuals impacted by dementia, establishing this office is a natural progression of the state's Alzheimer's work. All the number of Californians living with Alzheimer's and related dementias dramatically increases over the next two decades.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support AB 1618 and respectfully requests that a psychiatrist also be added to the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Yoder", with a stylized, cursive script.

Paul Yoder  
Legislative Advocate

CC: Chair & Members, Assembly Health Committee