



March 16, 2022

The Honorable Monique Limón
California State Senate
1021 O St., Ste. 7330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 861 (Limon) Dementia Care Navigation – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Limón,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write in support of SB 861 (Limón), which would create an innovative program to provide resources and training to Community Health Workers (CHW), Promotores, and Health Navigators in order to increase dementia care navigation to communities disproportionately impacted by Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's disease is a growing public health crisis. According to the Department of Public Health 2021 report, the number of people living with Alzheimer's will more than double from 660,000 estimated in 2019 to nearly 1.5 million in 2040. One in six Californians over the age of 65 will develop Alzheimer's, and one in five will develop dementia.¹

Additionally, the report showed Hispanic and Black communities will shoulder a disproportionate share of the increase in prevalence. The number of Hispanic Californians living with Alzheimer's will more than triple, while the number of Black Californians living with Alzheimer's will nearly triple by 2040. The number of Californians living with Alzheimer's who identify as Asian and Pacific Islander will more than double, growing to 241,106 people. Given the disproportionate impact of Alzheimer's on communities of color, there is a growing need for culturally competent dementia care navigation by trusted sources.

CHWs, Promotores, and Health Navigators are recruited from their own communities and provide a host of health-related advice and support to communities of color. Given additional resources and training, these organizations are uniquely positioned to support those living with, or impacted by Alzheimer's and dementia.

SB 861 is an important step to ensure we prepare for the disproportionate impact of Alzheimer's, and invest in proven and trusted messengers.

For these reasons, CSAP strongly supports SB 861. Thank you for your authorship of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yoder', is placed below the text 'Sincerely,'.

Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Chair & Members, Senate Human Services Committee ¹ Ross, L, Beld, M, and Yeh, J. (2021). Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Facts and Figures in California: Current Status and Future Projections.