**Please send a support letter – On your letter head**

**Sample Support Letter – Assembly Bill 1909 (Nazarian)**

**Send Email To:** Jennifer.Swenson@asm.ca.gov or **By Fax To:** (916) 319-2181

**Send Copy To:** csend@cwda.org

**Date \_\_\_\_Please Submit by March 14**

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez

Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee

State Capitol, Room 2114

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support AB 229 (Nazarian) – Language Translation for IHSS Providers**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

**[Name of Your Organization]** urges your support for Assembly Bill 229, which requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to translate information notices and resources for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) providers into the threshold languages, currently Spanish, Armenian, and Cantonese. IHSS is a unique program in which recipients and service providers are more closely connected than many other types of Medicaid-based programs the state operates. A significant percentage of IHSS providers live with and/or are related to the recipients for whom they work.

Current state law and regulations require CDSS to translate information notices and resources for IHSS recipients into the 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 materials related to a tax exemption that live-in providers may access is one recent example of forms and documents that have not been translated, causing concern for providers and extra workload for county staff. County staff report many non-English-speaking providers receiving these forms in English have called and visited their counties out of fear that they have done something wrong. Of course, county staff help to manage this anxiety by stepping through the forms with providers, but translations of these forms would reduce confusion, benefiting both providers and consumers, while enabling county staff to better manage their significant caseloads.

By ensuring that the same language translation rules that apply to IHSS recipients also apply to providers, AB 229 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, [**Name of Your Organization**] supports AB 1909 and respectfully requests your “Aye” vote.

Sincerely,

**Your Name and Title**

CC: The Honorable Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian

Jennifer Swenson, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Cyndi Hillery, 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)