



MOUNTAIN BEARS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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May 2, 2017

Senator Bill Dodd
California State Senate, District 3

Subject: Raising the Personal Needs Allowance for Medi-Cal Nursing Home Residents

Dear Senator Dodd,

On behalf of the Mountain Bears Democratic Club, I am writing to support SB 202 - Dodd. The bill would increase the personal needs allowance within the Medi-Cal program from \$35 to \$80 per month.

California's personal needs allowance was last set at \$35 per month in 1984. Residents in skilled nursing facilities have not received a cost-of-living increase since then, despite the rate of inflation. SB 202 - Dodd is important to the Mountain Bears because our community of Lake Arrowhead and neighboring mountain communities are home to a large retired, senior population who reside here year round. Although they lead a very active, full life volunteering in various service organizations now, they reach an age when the winter conditions and sometimes declining health make it difficult to remain. This is the time of year in which we see an exodus of seniors moving off the mountain in need of more moderate climate conditions for either health or safety reasons, or both. Our club loses members every year. The passage of this bill now would help them adjust to new life surroundings should any of them require assisted living accommodations in the future. None of us, for that matter, are immune to that eventuality. Any one of us could find ourselves in this situation. SB 202 is long overdue. If not now, when?

SB 202 - Dodd is key to restoring dignity and personal self-esteem to Medi-Cal recipients, who have been deprived of this much needed increase in personal needs allowances for far too long. This legislation will go a long way in empowering this vulnerable group in California.

For the reasons stated, the Mountain Bears are pleased to support SB 202 Dodd which passed unanimously Apr. 25, 2017. We thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,
(Signed)
Michele Laws, President

Mountain Bears Democratic Club