

May 2, 2017

The Honorable Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de León  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

**Re: Senate Bill 202 (Dodd): Medi-Cal: Personal Needs Allowance: Support**

Dear President Pro Tempore de León:

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 202, which would increase the Personal Needs Allowance for Medi-Cal eligible individuals living in an institutionalized setting from \$35 to \$80 per month. The bill would also adjust the personal needs allowance by the same percentage as the consumer price index, annually.

The Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) is what a Medi-Cal eligible institutionalized individual is permitted to keep from his or her own monthly income. The remainder of the resident's income goes to the nursing facility for their share of cost and reduces the amount the state agency pays the nursing home.

California's PNA was last set in 1985, and residents in nursing facilities have not received a cost-of-living increase since then, despite the rate of inflation (128%). The purchasing power of the PNA has decreased every year since 1985.

The current PNA does not adequately fund the cost of personal needs. The PNA is crucial to enhancing the quality of life of residents in nursing homes by covering the cost of clothes, shoes, personal care items, reading materials, postage and meals outside the facility. When it is difficult to buy a sweater, blouse or slacks the resident's quality of life is diminished.

It is an injustice that the Personal Needs Allowance has not been raised in 32 years. I support SB 202 and request that you support this important measure.

Sincerely