

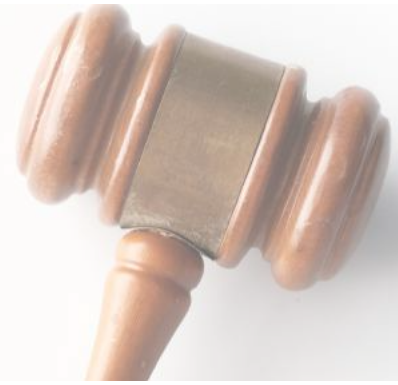
# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

## **This year's session ended on September 10 and resulted in:**

- The passage of two bills of significance to 6beds (one of which was opposed)
- The enactment of the \$353 million Community Care Expansion Program to be administered by the Department of Social Services to try to stem the tide of ARF and RCFE closures specially those serving low-income Californians (SSI/SSP recipients)
- The deferral until next year, probably without prejudice, of a referral agency bill that lobbyists have been working on for six years
- The dropping of two bills to which were opposed and another of interest

These are among the 12 bills that was actively monitored after reviewing the 2400 bills introduced for consideration this year.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



## Enacted Bills

### **AB 665 (Eduardo Garcia)—care facilities: internet access.**

Would require RCFEs that have Wi-Fi to make available an "internet access device" (can be a smart phone, computer, tablet or other device) "that can support interactive applications, is equipped with videoconferencing technology and is dedicated for client or resident use." The point of the bill, in reaction to COVID, is to enable residents to meet virtually with family, friends and medical providers. We threatened to oppose the bill but dropped our opposition when it was clarified that it could be a smartphone or other relatively inexpensive device and did not require a separate room for use.

### **SB 447 (Laird)—civil actions: decedent's cause of action.**

Would allow a decedent's representative to sue for damages for pain, suffering or disfigurement. Such a cause of action is now barred. We joined a broad coalition headed by the Chamber of Commerce in opposing the bill. The business community withdrew its opposition when it was amended to be a kind of 4 year pilot program with a report to the Legislature.

## Delayed Bill We Support

### **AB 499 (Blanca Rubio)—referral source for RCFEs: duties**

This bill to regulate referral agencies was put over to next year at the request of Attorney General Bonta's office, which seems to be interested in strengthening regulation. The bill is sponsored by A Place for Mom and we worked over two years with committee staff to improve the bill—the latest amendment requires a referral agency to cease contacting or making referrals to a person within 10 days of a request to cease such activity. We agreed to support the bill with that amendment. The bill is likely to pass next year.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



## Bills of interest that were dropped

### **AB 1300 (Voepel)—RCFEs: electronic monitoring.**

Would have authorized a resident to install electronic monitoring devices in their rooms, with notice to the facility and the consent of any roommate. We opposed the bill on privacy and administrative burden grounds and the author dropped it.

### **AB 677 (Holden)—Care facilities: criminal background checks.**

Generally sought to speed up the process by which persons applying to work at an RCFE can obtain exemptions for certain prior criminal conduct. The bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, probably because of administrative cost to DSS.

### **AB 895 (Holden)—Residential care facilities: conditions.**

Required Community Care Licensing to post on its website every inspection report in past 5 years. We raised concerns about inspection report inaccuracies, and the author did not pursue the bill.

## **New \$353 million Community Care Expansion Program at DSS.**

### **AB 172, Section 27 (budget trailer bill)**

This program is an effort to prevent further closures of facilities serving SSI recipients and potentially homeless people, and to expand such facilities. We supported this idea in budget subcommittee hearings but emphasized that deferred maintenance was not as much of a problem as inadequacy of the SSI grant. The program includes possible assistance with both. The emphasis is on administration of the program by counties, but the department can use others to implement part of the program. Counties are required to provide matching funds (amount of match not specified). The Department has indicated guidance will be forthcoming once the bill is signed.