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Assembly
California Legislature
Committee on Budget



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November 4, 2009

Secretary Kim Belshé
California Health and Human Services Agency
1600 9th Street, Room 460
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Belshé:

I received your response this morning indicating that neither you nor the Department of Social Services Director, John Wagner, will be able to attend the Assembly Budget Committee's second oversight hearing on the implementation of recent changes in the In-Home Supportive Services Program (IHSS) tomorrow, November 5, 2009 and that you plan to send someone to read a statement.

Your absence is unfortunate given the gravity and spectrum of issues still in need of clarity and the pressing need for additional time for counties to comply. As you know, these implementation questions, left unresolved, jeopardize the health and safety of frail, elderly, and disabled consumers in the program today. If the administration continues to enforce rules that counties are not prepared to implement, recipients may end up losing their care, resulting in the administration denying benefits to recipients who are entitled to them, thus exposing the state to associated legal liability.

I gave notice at the oversight hearing on November 18th in person to Director Wagner and Deputy Director Eva Lopez about this follow-up discussion in hopes that the administration could prepare to come forward with more and better information on how you are resolving issues and properly implementing the changes included in the 2009-10 Budget.

The Committee will be sending additional information for tomorrow's hearing, however the issues are largely still those that were outlined and discussed at the hearing last week and that were the subject of Senate Bill 69, which sought to offer implementation relief to the state and counties to allow for a rational, comprehensive approach to successful implementation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "NoREEN EVANS".

NOREEN EVANS
Assemblymember, 7th District

