



**United Domestic Workers of America
AFSCME Local 3930 /AFL-CIO**

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November 4, 2009

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State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

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**RE: Failure to pass Senate Bill 69 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) -- IHSS
Program Changes and Implementation**

Dear State Legislator:

The UDW Homecare Providers Union/AFSCME, which represents 65,000 homecare providers throughout California, is deeply disappointed by the Senate's failure to pass Senate Bill 69. This bill would have provided the time and resources desperately needed by our counties to implement the new IHSS provider enrollment requirements approved as part of the July budget agreement.

Twenty-eight counties representing 86 percent of the IHSS caseload informed the Schwarzenegger Administration last month that they would be unable to implement the new enrollment requirements by the November 1 deadline. These counties urged the Administration to allocate adequate funding and time and provide proper instruction to the counties so that the new requirements can be implemented in a way that promotes program integrity.

We applaud the 68 Democrats and Republicans who supported SB 69 in the Assembly. They recognized that the programmatic changes made to IHSS in July were not designed to dismantle this cost-effective and valuable program, but rather to enhance program integrity. We had hoped that this spirit of cooperation the Assembly showed in setting partisan politics aside to pass SB 69 would carry over to the Senate. Unfortunately, that didn't happen.

SB 69 failed in the Senate on a party line vote. This sends the disturbing message that some in the Senate don't think it's a priority to stop the administrative chaos that their counties are facing as a result of the action by the Legislature and the Governor in July. The major programmatic changes in IHSS were approved in July without a thorough discussion of their policy implications, but some Senators refuse to take responsibility for the results.

This is especially troubling because while SB 69 failed in the Senate, other far more contentious bills dealing with water policy and education passed with bipartisan support. We wish that Senate leaders had stepped up to the plate for SB 69 as they did for water policy and education and as their counterparts in the Assembly did for SB 69.

Apparently, some of you think it's OK for counties, IHSS consumers and their homecare providers to have to mount a major lobbying campaign to get legislators to fix a problem created by the Legislature itself. We think it's unfair and irrational. We expect Senate leadership--with your support--to make this a priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyan Agee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joyan Agee,
Political & Legislative Director