



## CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR THE RETARDED

2000 "O" Street, Suite #250, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone (916) 498-1635 - Fax (916) 498-1385

[www.carforchoice.org](http://www.carforchoice.org)

MAY 6, 2005

The Honorable Noreen Evans, Chair  
Assembly Human Services Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**AB 1653 (As introduced February 22, 2005) - In-Home Supportive Services Wages  
May 10, 2005 hearing of Assembly Human Services Committee**

Dear Assemblymember Evans:

The California Association for the Retarded (CAR) has taken an oppose position on AB 1653 (Haynes), as introduced February 22, 2005. We oppose any effort on the part of the Governor or the Legislature to permanently reduce the State's share of cost for wages of In-Home Supportive Services workers to the minimum wage level of \$6.75 per hour.

CAR is a statewide parent organization with 10 local units that include family advocacy organizations, operators of day programs, and parent groups at state developmental centers. CAR advocates for choice, maintenance of a continuum of services, and greater parent/family involvement in decision making processes affecting adult sons and daughters with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

The task of caring for people with mild to severe disabilities is a difficult and demanding one. If the Legislature approves this bill, it is likely many competent workers will leave for better paying jobs, resulting in a shortage of IHSS workers. Realistically, who will we get to perform these tasks for such little money? The likely result of this bill is a significant deterioration of services for the most frail and vulnerable of our population.

In addition, a significant portion of IHSS workers are family members, many of who have given up jobs to stay at home to care for their loved one. This bill would leave many of these people with no choice but to seek outside employment to support their families. The result is that disabled family members would be forced to move out of their homes to residential facilities, or in some cases, to nursing homes. This would be cruel, unconscionable, and costly.

It is patently unfair for the state to pay billions to provide generous wages, benefits and retirement arrangements for many groups of public employees, while it is asking this sector of "other public employees" to try to survive on minimum wage with limited benefits, health care or retirement.

We have testified and many of our local unit members have sent numerous personal letters to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 which rejected a related Governor's budget proposal on this issue. We ask that you also show your care and concern for those who cannot help themselves. We ask that you **oppose AB 1653** to reduce state funding for IHSS workers.

Sincerely,

Marion Lieberman  
President

cc: Assemblymembers Haynes, Arambula, Bass, Coto, Nation, and Spitzer