

CFILC'S CAPITOL CONNECTION

A monthly newsletter

March 2022

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CFILC Announces State Budget Request

The California Foundation for Independent Living Centers ([CFILC](#)) announced its state budget request in co-sponsorship with collaborators at the CA In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance ([CICA](#)). The budget request will restore critical funding for the IHSS Public Authority Consumer Advisory Committees and Governing Boards. This funding was significantly reduced from \$56,000/year to \$6,000/year per county during the budget crisis of 2011. This funding has never been restored and the cut in funding restricts consumer input on IHSS policies and practices.

At the same time this funding cut was made, the mandate on counties to operate these IHSS advisory committees was removed through a budget trailer bill amendment. Unfortunately, this reduced the ability of IHSS advisory committees to serve as a forum lead by consumers to improve IHSS.

This funding would provide \$56,000 per year for each county-based Public Authority Consumer Advisory Committee and Governing Board (58 counties total) to implement the consumer input mandate of the IHSS Public Authorities legislation established in AB 485 (1992) and AB 1682 (1999).

If approved, this funding will re-establish these county-based committees and boards, which are essential in providing consumer input to policy makers

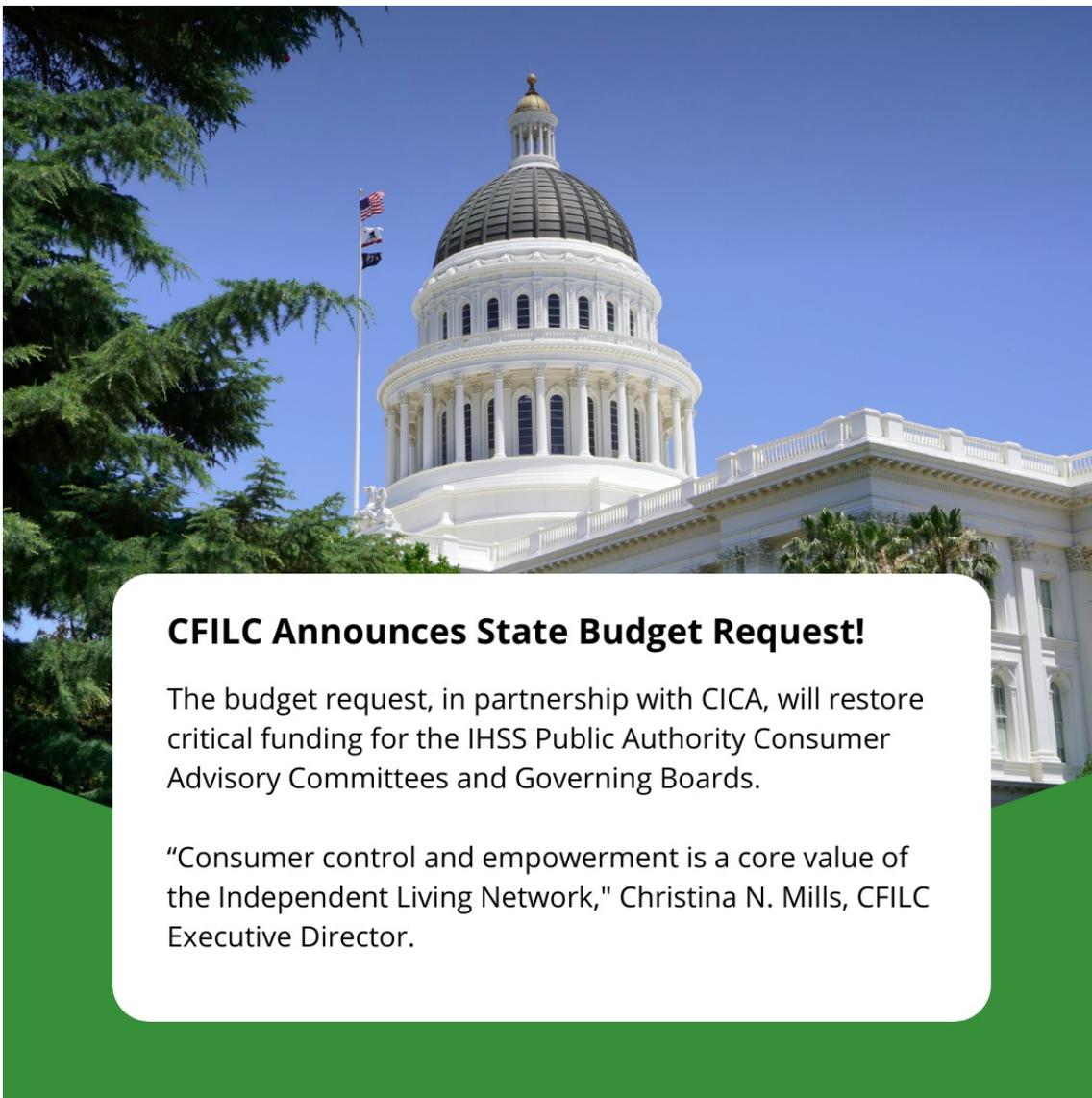
regarding IHSS policies and practices.

At the time of this publication, Assembly Member [Ash Kalra](#) (D-San Jose) has agreed to be the champion (author) of CFILC's and CICA's state budget proposal to restore funding of the IHSS consumer advisory committees.

“Consumer control and empowerment is a core value of the Independent Living Network. The IHSS program is a critical part of keeping and allowing disabled people to live their best lives in the community. While there is much work to be done to improve and expand IHSS to meet the needs of California's growing population, there is a fundamental need to have individuals with lived experience that bring diversity, equity and inclusion advising counties on how the program can be improved. CFILC is grateful to be partnering and advocating for this change with our friends at CICA,” Christina Mills, CFILC Executive Director said.

[Read the full budget request.](#)

If you have questions, please contact CFILC's Public Policy Manager, Dan Okenfuss at dan@cfilc.org



CFILC Announces State Budget Request!

The budget request, in partnership with CICA, will restore critical funding for the IHSS Public Authority Consumer Advisory Committees and Governing Boards.

“Consumer control and empowerment is a core value of the Independent Living Network,” Christina N. Mills, CFILC Executive Director.

Legislature to Debate Bills Benefitting People with Disabilities



We are three months into the 2022 State Legislation, and CFILC is watching several bills of interest for people with disabilities. Some of these bills are ready for their first hearings in Assembly and Senate policy committees.

- **AB 1618** (Aguiar-Curry) Bill continues the work of the Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI), a county based public health strategy to help communities with Alzheimer's. Scheduled for hearing in Assembly Health Committee on March 22. **SUPPORT**
- **AB 1663** (Maienschein) Probate Conservatorship Reform and Supported Decision-Making Act. This bill supports alternative options to help people avoid entering conservatorships. Passed 10-0 in Assembly Judiciary on March 15. Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee. **SUPPORT**
- **AB 1947** (Ting) Freedom from Hate Crimes Act. This bill will require every law enforcement agency to adopt a hate crimes policy with detailed, specific protocols so that every officer in the state will be required to follow. Scheduled for hearing on March 22, in Assembly Public Safety Committee. **SUPPORT**
- **AB 2394** (Reyes) This bill establishes the California Long-Term Services and Supports Benefits Board to manage and invest revenue deposited in the California Long-Term Services and Supports Benefits Trust Fund. **SUPPORT**
- **AB 2563** (Quirk) This bill requires air pollution control and air quality management districts to establish a permit program to provide mobile fueling on-demand vehicle operations. Scheduled for hearing in Assembly Transportation on April 4. **SUPPORT**
- **AB 2813** (Santiago) This bill requires the Department of Aging to establish and administer a Long-Term Services and Supports Benefits Program with the purpose of providing supportive care to aging Californians and those with physical disabilities. **SUPPORT**
- **SB 842** (Dodd) This bill requires the Department of Aging, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish a comprehensive 3-year pilot program in the Counties of Contra Costa, Napa, and Solano to facilitate the reuse and redistribution of durable medical equipment and other home health supplies. Scheduled for hearing in Senate Human Services Committee on March 29. **SUPPORT**

. SB 861 (Limon) - *Referred by Jared Giarusso of the Alzheimer's Association.* Establishes the Dementia Care Navigator Grant Program within CDA, in partnership with organizations with expertise using community health workers, promoters, and health navigators. Scheduled for hearing in Senate Human Services Committee on March 29. **SUPPORT**

Other bills are still being developed by their authors and will not be heard until later this session. The last day for policy committees to hear and report bills with fiscal impact is April 29.

DOnetwork Corner: An Open Letter from Russell Rawlings

On March 15, 2022, the California Senate Governmental Organization Committee rejected SCR-5, a resolution written to criticize the Governor's right to declare states of emergency, including the current one established March 4, 2020, to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The [DOnetwork](#) would like to thank Committee Chair [Sen. Bill Dodd](#) and members who voted to reject this resolution, which the disability community found to be extremely harmful.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, people with disabilities have struggled to maintain health and safety. Early on, it was known that COVID-19 put disabled people's lives at "high risk" for serious health impacts and death, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It was because of the actions taken at the beginning of the pandemic — social distancing, mask mandates and vaccination prioritization — that many lives were preserved.

Certainly, the pandemic has been especially hard for our community, and many of us have lost loved ones. Without additional mandates and protections, these costs for our community would have been much higher.

Although we acknowledge that health data shows that the COVID-19 virus may not be currently at a peak, we also know that people with disabilities are still just as much at risk today as they were when COVID-19 was initially declared a pandemic. Many people who are immunocompromised still struggle to safely navigate public spaces.

During the pandemic we saw a massive shift — indeed, it could be said that many people who do not identify as disabled received some insight into day-to-day life for disabled people. Our economy changed from "in-person" oriented environments to remote delivery and "virtual" environments created for everything from healthcare to employment. Many people with disabilities benefited from these changes, and for some, these changes brought access to a life that had not previously been possible.

The DOnetwork calls upon the Governor, Legislature and local policymakers throughout California to continue the commitment to both access and health.

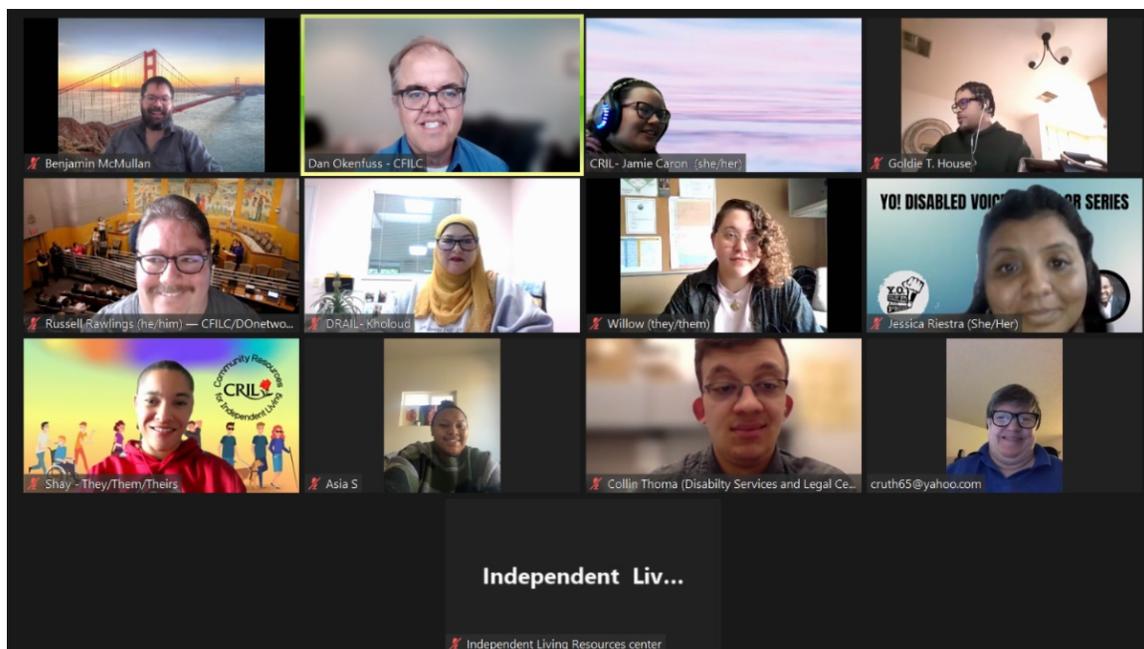
Being able to set a vision for the future that includes the needs of disabled people ensures that we have a future that is healthier for all of California.

We specifically asked for a continued commitment to open governance with virtual participation options, voting systems that continues to prioritize accessibility, investment in a Long-Term Supports and Services (LTSS) system that promotes community living, expanded access in healthcare settings including telehealth options, investment in broadband Internet access at rates affordable to all, investment in virtual education and employment opportunities, and investment in direct-to-home delivery of goods and services. For the disability community, this is priority infrastructure for an accessible future.

With this vision, and the continued engagement of disabled people, we can begin to transform California into a society that prioritizes health and access for all. Together, we can move into the future by building a culture of access that will make California stronger.

In Solidarity,

Russell Rawlings
Statewide Community Organizer
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC)
Facilitator of DOnetwork (Disability Organizing Network)



In Case You Missed It: YO! Celebrated Women's History Month with Nikki Booker!

On Thursday, March 24th, Nikki Booker joined YO! Disabled and Proud for the Disabled Voices of Color Series. Nikki is the Program Officer for the Disability Inclusion Fund at [Borealis Philanthropy](#). Nikki shared personal stories, insights, and advice on being a great leader and advocate in the Disability



A program of the California Foundation
for Independent Living Centers

[Check out the event video!](#)

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