
From: mlyon01
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 10:10 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: \$20/hour for in-home-support-workers

thank you, Supervisors, for holding this hearing,

My name is Michael Lyon, and I work with the San Francisco and East Bay Gray Panthers, and am a member of the American Public Health Association.

I have three children and seven grandchildren, and I'm frankly terrified at the prospect of their becoming disabled or old and frail and there not being enough home care workers to take care of them.

We are all aware of the huge increase in the elder population in this country, particularly in those over eighty years old. Ten years ago, knowledgeable and responsible experts in long-term care, such as nationally-recognized Ai Jen Poo, stated that two million more caregivers would be needed. Yet the inherent difficulty of providing home care, the abuse and isolation that often accompanies giving home care, the lack of legal protection for caregivers' wages and safety, difficulty of senior and disabled people paying for home care, the lack of respect, and particularly, the low wages for home care, have made home care the highest turnover job category in the nation.

We are all aware that this situation is unsustainable. As outlined above, many difficult things need to be done to solve this problem, but one thing you, the Contra County Supervisors can do is to raise IHSS wages to a survival level of \$20 per hour. Doing this will let home caregivers to continue doing their vital work in spite of the region's high cost of rental, food, and gas. But perhaps equally important, it will be a tangible and official recognition of the value of home care to the nation.