Date

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California

Honorable Members, California State Legislature

Re: **Caregiver Resource Centers Budget Request FY2022-23 – Support $20M annual increase**

(Please put in a sentence about who you are (e.g. I am a caregiver for my mother with Alzheimer’s disease or I work with family caregivers in San Diego). I am a member of California’s 4.7 million strong unpaid family caregiver workforce. The value of the labor we provide to keep loved ones in their own homes, delaying or avoiding nursing home placements, amounts to $63 billion a year. I strongly support the $20M annual increase that is being requested for the CRCs.

The California Caregiver Resource Centers are the primary organizations serving unpaid family caregivers of adults with dementias such as Alzheimer's disease and other disorders that cause cognitive impairments. They have been doing so since 1984. Compared to state and national caregiver data, caregivers served by the CRCs provide more complex and intense care, with 90.4% providing a high level of care. Most caregivers (78.6%) assist with at least one medical/nursing task and 72.9% spend more than 40 hours per week caregiving. Despite these heavy demands, 70% receive no paid help. For families who cannot afford the high price of providing in-home care through an outside agency, services provided by the Caregiver Resource Centers are critical.

Adding $20 million per year will allow the CRCs to expand their capacities to support families like mine, by doubling the amount of respite grants that are available, provide intensive education and training to 80,000 family caregivers and serving a diverse group of caregivers by offering culturally responsive and language appropriate services to any caregiver in California who needs support.

As California continues to promote home- and community-based care through the Master Plan for Aging and waiver programs, the importance and needs of family caregivers cannot be overlooked. Alzheimer’s and other dementias increase in an aging society and require healthy and capable caregivers to provide competent care. Please support this mature program in continuing to provide much-needed services across the State.

Thank you for your support of the California Caregiver Resource Centers (CRCs) and the unpaid workforce they serve.

Sincerely,

Your name