



AB 392 (Feuer & Jones)

*Protecting Vulnerable Seniors from Abuse and Neglect by
Restoring Ombudsman Funding*

The Problem

Last year, Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed \$3.8 million in funding for the local Long term Care Ombudsman programs, representing about half of their funding.

As a result of the cuts, local ombudsman programs have been forced to lay off staff and drastically reduce services. These cutbacks have greatly compromised the ombudsman programs' ability to investigate complaints from residents and monitor facilities, thus putting long term care facility residents at significantly greater risk of abuse and neglect.

Under authority of state and federal laws, the long term care ombudsman program investigates and resolves elder abuse and other complaints on behalf of residents of California's 1,300 nursing homes and more than 8,000 assisted living facilities. Many of the vulnerable seniors living in long term care facilities have no family or friends who visit or advocate for them.

For over thirty years, ombudsman staff and nearly a thousand state-certified volunteers have filled this void by making regular visits to facilities and responding to residents' concerns. Their frontline work has exposed countless incidents of neglect and abuse and often helps residents protect important rights that might otherwise be ignored.

The Solution

AB 392 would appropriate \$1.6 million to the local ombudsman programs on a one-time basis. The funds would come from federal nursing home fines owned by California. Local ombudsman programs would be able to use these funds through the end of fiscal year 2009-10.

Support

AB 392 is co-sponsored by CANHR and the following organizations: AARP, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, California Alliance for Retired Americans, California Association of Area Agencies on Aging, California Senior Legislature, California Commission on Aging, Catholic Charities of California, Congress of California Seniors, and Ombudsman & HICAP Services of Northern California. Additionally, it is supported by local ombudsman programs and many other consumer organizations.

Support AB 392 to help restore long term care ombudsman services in California.

CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES FOR NURSING HOME REFORM (CANHR)

650 Harrison Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94107

Tel: (415) 974-5171
Fax: (415) 777-2904

www.canhr.org
canhrmail@canhr.org

