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**CAADS Releases Position Paper on DHCS' Proposed  
"Long Term Care at Home" Benefit**

The Long Term Care at Home ("LTC at Home") Proposal was first released as a "trailer bill" proposal in May and then introduced to stakeholders by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) in June 2020. Development of this new statewide Medi-Cal benefit is currently being fast tracked, with implementation planned for early 2021, pending CMS approval.

The initial reason given for creating a new 1915(i) State Plan benefit was to "decompress" California's skilled nursing facilities, diverting an as-yet undefined set of Medi-Cal beneficiaries from hospital settings to home by providing alternative support. The proposal provided to the Long Term Services and Supports Subcommittee in late June indicated that the initial concept has expanded to include a broader set of goals.

The medical care and home and community-based services (HCBS) to be provided through this proposed benefit would be determined by conducting person-centered assessments. While the proposal indicates that services will be tailored to individual needs, it is not clear what these services will entail nor whether this will include 24-hour health care and support as skilled nursing facilities do, as the full range of services available through this benefit has not been described.

Intended by DHCS to remain cost neutral, the proposed LTC at Home benefit was initially described in state budget hearings as replacing CBAS (Community Based Adult Services) and MSSP (Multipurpose Senior Services Program), two effective LTSS program models deferring and/or avoiding institutional placement. Each represents over 40 years of expertise in the provision of community-based alternatives to skilled nursing facility placement, and deep expertise in serving medically and socially complex individuals in the community. CAADS stands in opposition to any action that would deny access to CBAS and MSSP for the more than 47,000 beneficiaries served across the state within these programs.

CAADS provided testimony at the Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Subcommittee on Friday, July 17, 2020. And, noted that recognizing that the novel coronavirus pandemic has increased the urgency of this concern, CAADS stands ready to assist with the development of a realistic, meaningful Long-Term Care at Home benefit only if it builds upon and enhances the innovative LTSS programs that have paved the way in preventing over-utilization of nursing facility and hospital care.

Click [here](#) to access CAADS' Position Paper on the LTC at Home Benefit.

Click [here](#) to access DHCS' LTC at Home Benefit Design Paper.