

**Draft letter of support**  
**3.9.2010**

**To:** The California Legislature

**From:** Concerned Californians

**Subject:** The Recommendations of the California Task Force on Family Caregiving

California is home to 4.5 million family caregivers. They make it possible for adults with an illness or disability to remain in the community. The assistance they provide is valued at \$57 billion per year.

Caregivers face many challenges in this role, which can negatively impact their health and financial wellbeing. Caregivers are at an increased risk of experiencing depression, injury, and cardiovascular risk, and, in some cases, mortality. The financial impact of caregiving can be devastating. In a recent survey, it was discovered that just 40% of caregivers indicated they will have adequate resources to pay for their own care.

Californian's have long recognized the important need to support caregivers to adults with an illness or disability. The California Caregiver Resource Centers have existed for over three decades to provide information and assistance, education, and other services to caregivers. However, a 74% budget cut in 2009 severely curtailed the capacity of the CRCs to assist caregivers. This and other state policies have not kept pace with the evolving needs of family caregivers.

The California Task Force on Family Caregiving was created in 2016 to examine the challenges caregivers face and identify opportunities to improve caregiver supports in the state. The recommendations the Task Force are submitting to the Legislature are intended to bridge the gap between current—and projected—needs of caregivers and existing state policies.

With this letter, the below signed organizations urge the Legislature to give all due consideration to the recommendations made by the California Task Force on Family Caregiving, and advance legislation that can preserve the wellbeing of California's growing population of family caregivers.

Sincerely,

[Signed organizations]