



**EMBARGOED UNTIL CA LEGISLATURE PASSAGE OF AB/SB 129**

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## **CALIFORNIA BUDGET INVESTS IN REDEFINING AGING**

*After Years of Being Overlooked, Investments in the Master Plan for Aging Turn the Tide for Seniors and Older Californians with Disabilities*

(SACRAMENTO, CA) Peter Hansel, Chief Executive Officer of the [California PACE Association \(CaPACE\)](#) issued the following statement about the state budget, which includes investments addressing every aspect of aging - notably health care access, nutrition, housing, income, and caregiving. The budget includes key CalPACE priorities, including the elimination of the Medi-Cal asset test, the elimination of the 7% hours cut to in-home care services for disabled and elderly Californians served by the In-Home Supportive Services program, the partial restoration a 2009 cut to SSI/SSP benefits for low-income adults and seniors living with disabilities, and \$17 million in new investments to address Alzheimer's Disease.

"This budget sends a message of hope to medically frail seniors - help is on the way. Most seniors lack the resources needed to age independently at home but this budget does more to help them than any other. By expanding vital services for older Californians, this budget will improve their well-being through an expanded state commitment to reduce poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

"PACE organizations have been active and invested in the Master Plan for Aging to encourage investments in basic needs that enable more Californians to age with dignity in their communities. Most Californians want access to services needed to remain in their homes as they age, and it should be the norm instead of the exception. As a state, we must ensure residents are aware of their community care options. We must also provide more support to home and community-based services for frail seniors, like PACE, by making it easier to access them and providing operational flexibility to better meet care needs.

"A third of seniors enrolled in PACE have Alzheimer's Disease and, with nearly 700,000 seniors living with the disease in California today, we are just scratching the surface of care needs. As seniors become a larger part of our population in the coming years, investments in care awareness, navigation, and access remain vital."

*The California PACE Association (CalPACE) is a non-profit association dedicated to the expansion of comprehensive health care services to the frail elderly through the Program of All-inclusive Care for Elderly (PACE), which is an alternative to nursing home care. PACE provides preventive, primary, acute, and long-term care services so that older individuals can continue living in their communities. Follow CalPACE on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*