April, 2022

Support for AB1618: Aguiar Curry – Healthy Brain Initiative

Dear Assemblymembers:

Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the wellbeing of older adults in Yolo County through education, collaboration, and advocacy. We work to identify and address gaps in services and connect people to the many resources and services that are available throughout the County. One of our priority issues is advocacy for increased awareness and services around Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.

It is projected that the number of California residents over the age of 65 living with Alzheimer’s disease will double by 2040. While the number of California residents will grow by 16 percent, the number with Alzheimer’s will grow by 127 percent.

This bill will establish the Office of the Healthy Brain Initiative within the California Department of Public Health. AB1618 will continue a competitive grant program in 10 local health jurisdictions to develop local initiatives consistent with the Centers for Disease Control’s Healthy Brain Initiative. This bill will also update the membership of the Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee to better reflect current needs. Lastly, this bill reflects the recommendations of the Master Plan for Aging to develop an equity-focused dementia-prevention public health campaign.

We write today in support for AB 1618, *The Healthy Brain Initiative*, authored by Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry.

Sincerely,

Sheila Allen, RN, PhD

Executive Director, Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance