RE: Support for AB2252 by Aguiar-Curry – Telecommunications Outage Reporting

Dear Assemblymembers:

Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance is a nonprofit 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 throughout the County. One of our priority issues is advocacy for increased services, including broadband and cell phone services, for our senior, rural, and under-served communities to ensure access for all residents in our County. Our efforts include advocacy for sufficiently restored services after a disaster.

The devastating fires of the last five years have seen telecommunications infrastructure being damaged across the state. While the state and CPUC have focused heavily on the utilities’ response to the massive destruction, little is known about the full impact these natural disasters have had on telecommunications networks and how telecommunication companies have responded. Concrete recovery plans are not shared with the CPUC or the Legislature, whose job it is to oversee these companies and represent the public interest.

This bill would ensure that state regulators and public officials are informed of telecommunication service failures and network damage after a natural disaster. It would require the CPUC to present an annual report to the Legislature, summarizing the information collected and service providers’ plans for restoring service and repairing infrastructure.

Requiring full reporting of service failures and restoration plans is a giant step in ensuring that services are properly restored to all residents, including seniors, the under-served, and rural communities in affected areas.

Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance supports AB2252.

Sincerely,

Sheila Allen, RN, PhD

Executive Director, Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance