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Gavin Newsom, Governor

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September 16, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 470 (Laird) – Signature Requested

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA), I respectfully request your signature on SB 470, which extends the alternative teleconferencing procedures under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act from January 1, 2026, until January 1, 2030. The bill passed the Assembly 57–13 and the Senate 28–5.

In 2023, the Legislature recognized the critical need for increased flexibility in public meetings by passing SB 544 (Laird), which provided a pathway for advisory bodies to meet virtually while maintaining transparency and public participation. This was a significant step in modernizing California's approach to open meetings. SB 470 builds upon that progress by extending these provisions for another four years, ensuring that public bodies can continue operating in a manner that is both inclusive and efficient.

By extending the current January 1, 2026, repeal date, SB 470 ensures that state bodies, including advisory commissions like CCoA, can continue leveraging modern teleconferencing technology, for greater public participation and increased diversity among Commissioners, ensuring broad representation and greater efficiency while maintaining full communications transparency.

SB 470 maintains strong safeguards to ensure accountability and public access, including:

- Requiring a primary physical location for public participation;
- Mandating visible on-camera participation by members during open meetings; and



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- Ensuring staff presence at the designated physical location to facilitate public engagement.

By extending these provisions, California will continue to avoid unnecessary disruptions to established meeting structures and uphold the principles of open governance while embracing the practical benefits of technology. This bill is budget neutral and will likely lead to cost savings for the state through reductions in advisory board member travel.

This is an important measure to ensure that state and advisory bodies can continue serving the public effectively while maintaining transparency and accountability, and we respectfully urge your signature to enact SB 470.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Karol Swartzlander, CCoA Executive Director, at karol.swartzlander@ccoa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Lindeman
Chair
California Commission on Aging