



Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director
Gavin Newsom, Governor

March 20, 2026

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The Honorable Ash Kalra, Chair
Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2283 (J. Gonzalez) State Public Guardian. (SPONSOR)

Dear Honorable Chair,

On behalf of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA), I am pleased to express our sponsorship of AB 2283 (J. Gonzalez), as introduced on February 19, 2026, which would establish the State Public Guardian within the Judicial Council of California.

Conservatorship is a court proceeding in which the court appoints a person or organization (the ‘conservator’) to manage an individual’s (the ‘conservatee’) financial affairs, their basic needs, their care, or any combination of these. Conservatorship proceedings may be filed by a spouse, relative, or the county Public Guardian – often following a referral by another local government entity. County Adult Protective Services (APS) departments, which are responsible for the protection of older and dependent adults subject to abuse, neglect, or exploitation, regularly refer clients to their county’s Public Guardian.

One type of conservatorship, General Probate Conservatorship, is established when the client has been found to be unable to manage their finances and/or care. These clients are often older adults with Alzheimer’s, dementia, or other cognitive impairment. If the court cannot find a responsible party, it will appoint the county Public Guardian to act as conservator to manage the finances and care of these individuals.

California’s Public Guardian system currently operates at the discretion of county governments, without clear state guidance or the additional resources needed to remain current with changes in conservatorship law. Currently, no direct line between the state and county Public Guardians exists for collaborative efforts or technical assistance.

This bill would establish the State Public Guardian, an executive-level position within the Judicial Council of California responsible for the following:

- Providing policy updates and technical assistance to local county Public Guardian offices.
- Promoting access to training materials necessary to perform the duties of a Public Guardian.
- Reviewing existing policies and providing recommendations to the Legislature for statutory changes.
- Developing a standardized referral form in consultation with CDSS to streamline referrals to local Public Guardians.
- Exploring the development of a single data reporting system to reduce gaps in caseload management.



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The need for Public Guardians is expected to increase as California's aging population increases. Without guidance from the state, the fragmented system that currently exists will struggle to provide services under increasing caseloads. California must prepare for this by providing the leadership needed at the state level to ensure that local Public Guardians are supported.

CCoA urges your support for AB 2283.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Lindeman".

Dr. David Lindeman
Chair
California Commission on Aging



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