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March 21, 2017

The Honorable Ash Kalra
Chair, Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 940 (Weber) – Long-term health care facilities: notice – Support
Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care - April 4, 2017

Dear Assemblymember Kalra:

The Consumer Federation of California (CFC) writes in support of AB 940, authored by Assemblymember Weber, which would codify the recent amendment to federal rules regarding skilled nursing facility discharge notification for residents receiving care in skilled nursing facilities in California's Health & Safety Code.

AB 940 would require, when a resident receives a written notice of discharge from a facility, that a copy of the discharge notice will be electronically sent to the local Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program ensures the highest possible quality of life and care for residents of long-term care facilities. They serve as eyes, ears and advocates for residents, particularly the 60% of residents without family members visiting to observe care, report problems or to provide assistance. AB 940 will provide facility residents with an added level of protection and advocacy by informing the local long-term care ombudsman program of the discharge.

Complaint investigations conducted by ombudsman programs for improper, unsafe and illegal discharges are a recently growing problem all across the state. In 2016 local programs investigated 1,504 complaints regarding discharge and evictions a 68% increase from 2012. Many residents when faced with discharge are not aware of their options. This bill ensures residents of skilled nursing facilities will be afforded a greater opportunity for timely intervention from patient advocates.

We respectfully urge your support of AB 940. If you or your staff has any questions, please contact Aaron Lewis, CFC Legislative Advocate, at (916) 498-9616.

Sincerely,

Richard Holober
Executive Director

cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care
Assemblymember Weber