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September 26, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
California State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 713 (Chu) - Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The Consumer Federation of California urges you to sign into law AB 713, authored by Assemblymember Chu. This bill will strengthen current law by requiring Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) providers to conduct an assessment of a resident identified for a transfer to another facility due to a mental or physical condition to help better identify the necessity and appropriateness of the initiated transfer. AB 713 also requires the Continuing Care Contracts Branch of the Department of Social Services (DSS) to consider the assessment as a tool to justify the transfer when it is disputed. Any transfer of care, or change in living environment, places stress on an aging senior. Therefore, transfers should be handled with the utmost care and only when it is medically necessary and in the best interest of the senior or other residents.

Under current law, the resident's right to dispute a transfer is meaningless. Without a requirement for the Department to consider the resident's health, physical and cognitive abilities, any review is simply a look at whether or not a provider gave adequate notification and followed other procedures. It does not indicate whether a transfer of care, which has significant financial and health impacts, is necessary or appropriate.

As the regulatory body, DSS has no financial interest in the resident's transfer, and therefore it is the most appropriate body to consider whether or not the assessment, conducted by the provider, also justifies a need for the residents transfer.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to sign AB 713. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Richard Holober
Executive Director

Cc: Assemblymember Kansen Chu