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Subject: Justice in Aging is person-centered health care for all

As we prepare to launch our new name and tagline, Justice in Aging: Fighting Senior Poverty Through Law, in just 2 weeks, I want to share with you why our new name resonates with me in relation to the work I'm engaged in right now.

With income inequality in the United States rising to levels unseen since the late 1920s and around 8,000 people turning 65 every day in the U.S, senior poverty is affecting more people than ever. One of the major areas of our work to ameliorate the injustices of senior poverty revolves around the multifaceted challenges of access to and freedom of choice in health and long term care. Since our beginnings in 1972, we've addressed these challenges through innovative policy analysis, advocate trainings, educational outreach, and litigation.

My current work is focused on addressing obstacles to quality, person-centered health care for California's dual eligibles (those who have both Medicare and Medi-Cal due to low income, age, and/or disability). Dual eligibles have lower incomes and typically higher health care needs than individuals only eligible for Medicare. California alone is home to about 1.1 million dual eligibles.

To me, Justice in Aging means this especially economically vulnerable demographic has access to health care and long term services and supports, understands the complicated choices as our state transitions to coordinated care through Cal MediConnect, and are always treated with respect. Just in the last year, we've trained over 22,000 advocates and direct service providers nationally on how to achieve these person-centered health care goals and protect the low-income aging population.

Our name is changing, but the advocacy and trainings we conduct to connect the nation's lowest-income, highest-need seniors to the health care and long terms services and supports they need will continue to impact thousands.

Best,

Amber Cutler
Staff Attorney

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