

Stephanie Auld

3245 Clares St. #202 Capitola, CA 95010 (831) 854-3522

4/26/25

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Honorable Members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to facilitate optimal appointments to the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advisory Commission. This commission plays a critical role in ensuring that the voices of both low-income care recipients and care providers are heard, respected, and reflected in the County's approach to IHSS policy and service delivery. The most effective commissioners for the IHSS Advisory Commission are active listeners, strong advocates, and collaborative problem-solvers motivated to improve the IHSS process for both sides of the caregiving experience.

In particular, I urge the Board to prioritize appointing individuals:

- With a passion for improving the quality of life for seniors and individuals with disabilities;
- Who express familiarity with IHSS system challenges and gaps;
- Who understand the daily realities of those relying on in-home care and can offer firsthand insight into the real-world impacts of policies and services;
- With the fortitude to advocate for systemic change.

Candidates should understand that acceptance of the Commissioner role implies agreement to perform the following tasks:

- Attend and actively participate in monthly Commission meetings;
- Contribute to Commission projects;
- Actively engage with the community, listening to caregiver and recipient concerns, to gather input and improvement suggestions;
- Analyze IHSS policies and propose creative changes to improve access to care, program services, and adequate program funding;

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- Monitor state and federal legislation impacting IHSS and advise the Board of necessary action.

Thank you for your dedication to ensuring the IHSS program remains responsive to those it serves and for your ongoing support of our community's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Auld". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Stephanie Auld

Commissioner, Santa Cruz County Public Authority IHSS Advisory Commission

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JUN 13 2025

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY