

Protect Our Loved Ones (POLO)

Sharon L. Wolff, President
3 Painter St.
Rio Dell, CA 95562

October 6, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 280 (Laird) Review of conservatorships: care plans – Request Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

Protect Our Loved Ones (POLO) is a newly formed non-profit in California with the goal of providing resources, information and advocacy for the issues surrounding conservatorships and elder justice. Our mission came from lived experience trying to navigate the conservatorship system on behalf of loved ones suffering from Alzheimer's and Dementia.

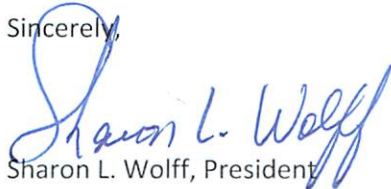
The adult children of conservatees have very few rights to information about their parent(s) in California. A conservator is not required to provide even basic health information about their loved one – it is left up to the benevolence of the conservator.

SB 280, as enrolled, would require a robust care plan to be created and provided to the involved parties and that includes relatives within the first degree (the adult children). The inclusion of this required noticing to first degree relatives is critical to remain in the bill as the proposed care plan may be the only source of information about the care and health of a parent available to their children.

The bill, as introduced, provides no funding or resources to county Public Guardian offices in order to fulfill the additional case requirements proposed. The Public Guardian offices in California receive no state funding. These small county offices rely on nominal fees and county general funds in order to perform their critical functions protecting vulnerable residents. As a state, we need our Public Guardians offices to have all of the resources they need in order to do their jobs currently.

Protect Our Loved Ones (POLO) strongly supports this bill and we also urge the inclusion of dedicated and ongoing funding to county Public Guardian offices in order to better protect our vulnerable loved ones. We respectfully request your support for this bill.

Sincerely,



Sharon L. Wolff, President

Cc: The Honorable John Laird