SUMMARY
AB 2548 establishes the Healthier Homes-Age in Place Nursing Program. This program will allow seniors to age in place rather than force them to relocate to more expensive healthcare setting. AB 2548 aligns with the Governor’s Master Plan for Aging bold goals.

BACKGROUND
From 2017 to 2020, LifeSTEPS (Skills, Training and Education Program), a not-for-profit organization serving the needs of residents of affordable housing, together with USA Properties, a provider of affordable housing, partnered to provide older residents of three affordable housing properties in Sacramento County a team approach utilizing a social services coordinator and a nurse to address their diverse needs. As a result, this pilot program has enabled the older residents of these properties to remain living independently in their homes, and avoiding unnecessary and costly health care services. Results from this small pilot are impressive. Not only did LifeSTEPS receive the 2020 HUD Secretary’s Healthy Homes Award, an estimated $1.1 million a year was saved in medical costs due to the combined efforts of the RN Coach and Service Coordinator team at the three communities. This model was successful at three Sacramento area affordable housing communities and will be expanded to three sites each in eight California counties, totaling 24 sites. As a result, the resident population in these properties are much more stable due to reduced turnover; their quality of life is improved; there is reduced demand on community health care resources; and significant cost savings to the health sector including Medi-Cal.

PROBLEM
California’s population age 65 and greater will nearly double by 2030, increasing by four million.1 Many aging Californians face increased emergency department visits, hospitalizations and other costly health care interventions. Eventually, in the absence of appropriate services, many will have to leave their homes, moving to nursing homes or other less independent settings to obtain more intense levels of care and services, or will live unsafely without the needed supports because they cannot afford assisted living rates.

SOLUTION
AB 2548 aims to further demonstrate and evaluate the health outcomes of older adults residing in affordable housing and receiving critical health and wellness services by a Registered Nurse and Community Health Worker. Services will include, but not be limited to, health care system navigation, transitions home from hospital stays to independent living, medical education and wellness coaching. Building on the success from the Sacramento experience, AB 2548 establishes the Healthier Homes-Age in Place Nursing Program at the California Department of Aging. Parameters of the program include:
1. The pilot counties included are Contra Costa, Fresno, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, Shasta, and Sonoma.
2. Provide for three program sites in each of the five counties.
3. Provide for a full-time registered nurse in each county serving as the on-site nurse for the three sites.
4. Provide for a full-time Community Health Worker in each county serving as the on-site nurse for the three sites.
5. Each site will be located in senior housing developments as defined in civil codes 51.2 and 51.3.

SUPPORT
LifeSTEPS (Co-Sponsor)
LeadingAge California (Co-Sponsor)

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1 https://www.ppic.org/publication/planning-for-californias-growing-senior-population/