



LeadingAge California Announced Public Policy Awardees

Two Lawmakers and one Housing Advocate get Annual Honor

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SACRAMENTO, CA – LeadingAge California has announced its 2018 public policy awards, which include Senator, Assemblymember and Grassroots Advocate of the Year. This award has been given since 1986 to the lawmakers and advocates who contribute the most to improving the lives of seniors in the Golden State.

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) has been awarded Senator of the Year for her work on affordable senior housing. Last year, Senator Jackson authored SB 1253, a bill that would have improved the availability of the low-income housing tax credit and SB 1026 dealing with fall prevention. This year, Senator Jackson has introduced SB 228, a measure that would establish the Master Plan on Aging.

Assemblywoman Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) will receive the Assemblymember of the Year award for her work in 2018 to improve the emergency preparedness of the state's assisted living communities. The bill, AB 3098, established new requirements for disaster preparation in the state's 7,500 residential care facilities for the elderly.

LeadingAge California Member **Ancel Romero** has been named the Grassroots Advocate of the Year for his work on educating his staff and residents on important public policy developments in California. As president of HumanGood Affordable Housing, Mr. Romero is responsible for the operations of its 59 communities comprising over 5,000 units. He is also responsible for the organization's real estate development pipeline and its mission of serving an ever-growing number of seniors. He is a frequent speaker at LeadingAge workshops, served on its Finance Committee and is a member of LeadingAge national's Business Strategy Council. He is Past President of the Affordable Housing Management Association of Northern CA and Hawaii board of directors.

The awardees will be recognized at LeadingAge California's 2019 RISE Summit at the Grand Sheraton Sacramento on March 26, 2019.

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About LeadingAge California

Founded in 1961, LeadingAge California is the state's leading advocate for quality, non-profit senior living and care. The association's advocacy, educational programs and public relations help its members best serve the needs of more than 120,000 of the state's older adults. LeadingAge California represents over 625 nonprofit providers of senior living and care – including affordable housing, continuing care retirement communities, assisted living, skilled nursing, and home and community-based care; as well as our business partners and residents.

For more information, visit www.leadingageca.org.