

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LYDIA DOMINGUEZ, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
v.
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, et al.,
Defendants.

No. C 09-02306 CW
ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION
FOR CLASS
CERTIFICATION

_____/

This case is about the implementation of cuts to the wages paid to In-Home Support Services (IHSS) providers, who provide in-home assistance to low-income elderly and disabled individuals through California's Medi-Cal program. Plaintiffs are a proposed class of tens of thousands of individuals who currently receive assistance through IHSS and the unions who represent IHSS providers. Plaintiffs seek declaratory and injunctive relief to enforce (1) the procedural and substantive requirements of the Medicaid Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(30)(A) and (2) and the anti-discrimination provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12132 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794(a). In this motion, Plaintiffs seek certification under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) of a

1 class composed of IHSS consumers residing in twenty-one counties¹
2 and a subclass composed of IHSS consumers residing in Fresno
3 county. State Defendants and Fresno Defendants filed separate
4 oppositions to the motion. Having considered all of the papers
5 filed by the parties, the Court grants Plaintiffs' motion.²

6 BACKGROUND

7 In 1973, California established the IHSS program to provide
8 assistance with the tasks of daily living to low-income elderly and
9 disabled persons "who cannot safely remain in their homes or abodes
10 of their own choosing unless these services are provided." Cal.
11 Welf. & Inst. Code § 12300(a). IHSS providers give services such
12 as assistance with bathing, dressing, cooking, feeding, bowel and
13 bladder care, self-administration of medication and cleaning. Id.
14 § 12300(b), (c). Over 360,000 IHSS providers serve over 440,000
15 individuals in California. More than sixty-two percent of IHSS
16 recipients are served by a relative.

17 IHSS is administered by the State's counties. Fifty-six of
18 California's fifty-eight counties have established either a public
19 authority (PA) or a non-profit consortium (NPC) to deliver IHSS

21 ¹The twenty-one counties are Alameda, Calaveras, Contra Costa,
22 Fresno, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Placer, Riverside,
23 Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo,
Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo.

24 ²The Court takes judicial notice of Plaintiffs' exhibit A to
25 their request, a copy of a June 24, 2009 agenda item before the
26 Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, because it contains facts
27 that are not subject to reasonable dispute in that they are capable
28 of accurate and ready determination by resort to sources whose
accuracy cannot be reasonably questioned. The Court takes judicial
notice of Defendants' exhibit A to their notice, the declaration of
Sanja Kavocovic submitted in support of Fresno's opposition to the
motion for a preliminary injunction, but not for the truth of the
matters asserted therein.

1 services. Each of these fifty-six counties has created and
2 maintains a registry from which service providers can be drawn. As
3 of June 30, 2007, there were over 14,500 persons in county
4 registries.³ These PAs and NPCs are considered employers of IHSS
5 providers for some purposes, including collective bargaining
6 agreements pertaining to providers' wages and benefits; however,
7 individual consumers hire, fire and supervise their own IHSS
8 providers. Id. § 12301.6(c)(1).

9 Each county establishes the providers' wages and benefits.
10 Thus, the rates paid to IHSS providers vary by county. Because
11 most IHSS consumers participate in California's Medicaid program,
12 the federal government pays for about sixty-two percent of the IHSS
13 program's costs.⁴ See 42 U.S.C. § 1396d(b). The State pays sixty-
14 five percent and the county pays thirty-five percent of the
15 remaining thirty-eight percent of the program's costs. Cal. Welf.
16 & Inst. Code § 12306. The State's contribution, however, is
17 subject to a statutory cap. Currently, the maximum state
18 contribution is sixty-five percent of the non-federal share of a
19 wage and benefit package of \$12.10 per hour. Id. at § 12306.1(c)-
20 (d).

21 Wages and benefits are determined through the collective
22 bargaining process at the county level. Once these wages and
23 benefits are decided, they must be submitted to the California
24

25 ³The parties did not provide a more recent estimate for the
26 number of IHSS providers in county registries.

27 ⁴Before the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment
28 Act of 2009, the federal government contributed fifty percent of
the program's costs. Dominquez v. Schwarzenegger, 595 F.3d 1087,
1091 n.2 (9th Cir. 2010).

1 Department of Health Care Services to ensure that they comply with
2 all applicable state and federal laws. Id. § 12306.1(a)-(b).

3 In response to California's unprecedented budget crisis, on
4 February 20, 2009, the Governor signed into law California Welfare
5 and Institutions Code § 12306.1(d)(6). Scheduled to take effect
6 July 1, 2009, the law would have reduced the State's maximum
7 contribution in wages and benefits from sixty-five percent of the
8 non-federal share of an hourly rate of \$12.10 to sixty-five percent
9 of the non-federal share of an hourly rate of \$10.10. This rate
10 represents \$9.50 for wages and \$0.60 for benefits. Counties would
11 not have to reduce wages and benefits and would be permitted to
12 make up the difference between the State's previous contribution
13 and any reduction that would result from the State's new maximum
14 contribution.

15 Only counties that currently pay IHSS providers more than
16 \$10.10 per hour in wages and benefits would see a reduction in the
17 State's contribution to IHSS costs. At the time the complaint was
18 filed, thirty-six of the fifty-six PAs and NPCs paid IHSS providers
19 \$10.10 per hour or less in wages and benefits. Thus, there would
20 be no reduction in the State's contribution to IHSS costs in a
21 majority of the counties, including Los Angeles, where forty-two
22 percent of all IHSS services are provided. Of the twenty-one
23 counties that pay wages and benefits of more than \$10.10 per hour
24 to IHSS providers, twelve notified the State of their intent to
25 reduce IHSS wages in proportion to the anticipated reduction in the
26 State's contribution. Of those twelve counties, Fresno is the only
27 one named as a Defendant. The Fresno PA submitted a rate change
28 request that hourly wages be reduced from \$10.25 to \$9.50 and

1 benefits from \$.85 to \$.60. These reduced rates were to take
2 effect July 1, 2009.

3 In their complaint, Plaintiffs allege that the wage reduction
4 provided in § 12306.1(d)(6) would have a substantial financial
5 impact on tens of thousands of IHSS providers throughout the State.
6 Plaintiffs' expert, Economics Professor Candace Howes, estimates
7 that approximately 4,000 providers will leave IHSS employment
8 because of the rate reduction and that 2,700 IHSS consumers will be
9 unable to find replacements. Howes estimates that over one-fifth
10 of these consumers will try to remain at home without assistance
11 from an IHSS provider, which could be dangerous for the consumer.
12 Roughly half of those unable to find replacements (approximately
13 1,400) may have to enter skilled-nursing facilities or other
14 residential institutions.⁵

15 On June 4, 2009, Plaintiffs filed this class action complaint
16 and moved for entry of a preliminary injunction prohibiting State
17 Defendants from implementing section 12306.1(d)(6) pending a final
18 decision on the merits. On June 26, 2009, the Court granted
19

20 ⁵Each side has challenged the admissibility of the evidence
21 submitted by the other side. However, unlike evidence presented at
22 a summary judgment stage, evidence presented in support of class
23 certification need not be admissible at trial. See Mazza v. Am.
24 Honda Motor Co., 254 F.R.D. 610, 616 (C.D. Cal. 2008) (citing Eisen
25 v. Carlisle & Jacquelin, 417 U.S. 156, 187 (1974)). At the class
26 certification stage, a plaintiff need not present evidence because
27 discovery may not yet have occurred. In fact, "the district court
28 is bound to take the substantive allegations of the complaint as
true." In re Coordinated Pretrial Proceedings in Petroleum Prods.
Antitrust Litig. v. Standard Oil Co. of Cal., 691 F.2d 1335, 1342
(9th Cir. 1982) (citation omitted). The district court may, of
course, consider evidence that supports or does not support class
certification, but a district court may certify a class without
supporting evidence. Hanon v. Dataproducts Corp., 976 F.2d 497,
509 (9th Cir. 1992). Therefore, the Court will exercise its
discretion to consider the proffered evidence as appropriate.

1 Plaintiffs' motion and found that they had demonstrated a strong
2 likelihood of success on their first cause of action, that State
3 Defendants had violated the federal Medicaid Act by failing to
4 consider the factors set forth in 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(30)(A)
5 (Section 30(A)) before enacting section 12306.1(d)(6). The Court
6 also concluded that, absent immediate injunctive relief, both IHSS
7 consumers and providers would suffer irreparable harm as a result
8 of the wage reductions caused by the implementation of section
9 12306.1(d)(6).

10 Plaintiffs bring three other causes of action, none of which
11 the Court addressed in the preliminary injunction opinion: the
12 second cause of action against State Defendants for violating the
13 substantive provisions of Section 30(A), the third cause of action
14 against State and Fresno Defendants for violating the anti-
15 discrimination provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of
16 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12132, and the fourth cause of action against
17 State and Fresno Defendants for violating the anti-discrimination
18 provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29
19 U.S.C. § 794(a).

20 Plaintiffs now move to certify the following class pertaining
21 to all causes of action:

22 All In-Home Supportive Services consumers residing in
23 Alameda, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Marin, Mendocino,
24 Monterey, Napa, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito,
25 San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara,
26 Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo counties.

27 Motion at 1. Plaintiffs move to certify the following subclass
28 (Fresno Subclass) pertaining to the third and fourth causes of
action: "All In-Home Supportive Services consumers residing in
Fresno County." Id.

LEGAL STANDARD

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2 Plaintiffs seeking to represent a class must satisfy the
3 threshold requirements of Rule 23(a) as well as the requirements
4 for certification under one of the subsections of Rule 23(b). Rule
5 23(a) provides that a case is appropriate for certification as a
6 class action if:

7 (1) the class is so numerous that joinder of all members
8 is impracticable;

9 (2) there are questions of law or fact common to the
10 class;

11 (3) the claims or defenses of the representative parties
12 are typical of the claims or defenses of the class; and

13 (4) the representative parties will fairly and adequately
14 protect the interests of the class.

15 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a). Plaintiffs move for certification under
16 Rule 23(b)(2), which allows certification if

17 the party opposing the class has acted or refused to act
18 on grounds that apply generally to the class, so that
19 final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory
20 relief is appropriate respecting the class as a whole

21 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2).

22 Plaintiffs seeking class certification bear the burden of
23 demonstrating that each element of Rule 23 is satisfied, and a
24 district court may certify a class only if it determines that the
25 plaintiffs have borne their burden. Gen. Tel. Co. v. Falcon, 457
26 U.S. 147, 158-61 (1982); Doninger v. Pac. Nw. Bell, Inc., 564 F.2d
27 1304, 1308 (9th Cir. 1977). The court must conduct a "rigorous
28 analysis," which may entail "looking beyond the pleadings to issues
overlapping with the merits of the underlying claims." Dukes v.
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., 603 F.3d 571, 594 (9th Cir. 2010). In
doing so, however, the court must not consider "any portion of the

1 merits of a claim that do not overlap with the Rule 23
2 requirements." Id. To satisfy itself that class certification is
3 proper, the court may consider material beyond the pleadings and
4 require supplemental evidentiary submissions by the parties. Id.
5 at 589 (quoting Blackie v. Barrack, 524 F.2d 891, 901 n.17 (9th
6 Cir. 1975)). Ultimately, it is in the district court's discretion
7 whether a class should be certified. Id. at 579.

8 DISCUSSION

9 In addition to opposing class certification, Fresno Defendants
10 also argue that Plaintiffs lack standing to assert their claims.
11 The Court addresses the standing issues first.

12 I. Standing

13 The standing inquiry asks whether a plaintiff has suffered an
14 actual or imminent injury that is fairly traceable to the
15 defendant's conduct and that is likely to be redressed by a
16 favorable court decision. Salmon Spawning & Recovery Alliance v.
17 Gutierrez, 545 F.3d 1220, 1225 (9th Cir. 2008). Fresno Defendants
18 argue that Plaintiffs' declarations submitted in support of their
19 motion for class certification demonstrate that they do not have
20 standing. Fresno Defendants assert that these declarations merely
21 describe named Plaintiffs "fears, beliefs, and suppositions that
22 their IHSS providers might leave them if the wages are reduced."
23 Opp. at 6-7. However, the Court relied on these same declarations
24 in its preliminary injunction order to conclude the following:

25 The wage reductions will cause many IHSS providers to leave
26 employment, which in turn will leave consumers without IHSS
27 assistance. The consumers' quality of life and health care
28 will be greatly diminished, which will likely cause great
harm to disabled individuals. For instance, the
declarations submitted by Plaintiffs describe harms ranging
from going hungry to dehydration, to falls and burns, to an

1 inability ever to leave the home. Institutionalizing
2 individuals that can comfortably survive in their home with
3 the help of IHSS providers will cause Plaintiffs to suffer
injury to their mental and physical health, including a
shortened life, and even death for some Plaintiffs.

4 Order Granting Prelim. Inj. at 11. The Court reaffirms these
5 conclusions. Accordingly, Plaintiffs have met injury in fact
6 requirement for standing.

7 I. Rule 23(a) Requirements

8 A. Numerosity

9 "The prerequisite of numerosity is discharged if 'the class is
10 so large that joinder of all members is impracticable.'" Hanlon v.
11 Chrysler Corp., 150 F.3d 1011, 1019 (9th Cir. 1998) (quoting Fed.
12 R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1)). Here, Plaintiffs claim that the proposed
13 class comprises tens of thousands of low income senior citizens and
14 people with disabilities who receive services from IHSS providers
15 through California's Medi-Cal program. Defendants concede that
16 Plaintiffs meet the numerosity requirement, and the Court finds
17 that it is satisfied.

18 B. Commonality

19 Rule 23(a)(2) requires that there be "questions of law or fact
20 common to the class." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2). The Ninth Circuit
21 has explained that Rule 23(a)(2) does not preclude class
22 certification if fewer than all questions of law or fact are common
23 to the class. "All questions of fact and law need not be common to
24 satisfy the rule. The existence of shared legal issues with
25 divergent factual predicates is sufficient, as is a common core of
26 salient facts coupled with disparate legal remedies within the
27 class." Hanlon, 150 F.3d at 1019.

28 In civil rights suits, "commonality is satisfied where the

1 lawsuit challenges a system-wide practice or policy that affects
2 all of the putative members." Armstrong v. Davis, 275 F.3d 849,
3 868 (9th Cir. 2001). "In such circumstances, individual factual
4 differences among the individual litigants or groups of litigants
5 will not preclude a finding of commonality." Id.

6 The common issues of law and fact for Plaintiffs' proposed
7 class include: (1) whether the State failed adequately to consider
8 the impact of section 12306.1(d)(6) on efficiency, economy, quality
9 of care, and access to services prior to enacting the statute, in
10 violation of Section 30(A) of the federal Medicaid Act; (2) whether
11 the IHSS provider wages and benefits that would result from the
12 implementation of section 12306.1(d)(6) would be inconsistent with
13 Medicaid's mandated quality of care in violation of Section 30(A)
14 of the federal Medicaid Act;⁶ and (3) whether the implementation of
15 section 12306.1(d)(6) would violate the rights of class members to
16 be free from discrimination on the basis of their disability under
17 the ADA, 42 U.S.C. § 12132 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation
18 Act, 29 U.S.C. § 794(a), by forcing disabled individuals who could
19 otherwise remain in their homes to enter nursing homes or other
20 residential institutions.

21 The common issues of law and fact pertaining to the Fresno
22 Subclass are whether the reduction of IHSS wages from \$10.25 per
23 hour to \$9.50 per hour and of the IHSS benefits rate from \$.85 per
24 hour to \$.60 would violate the rights of class members to be free

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26 ⁶State Defendants note that class certification of the Section
27 30(A) claims is not necessary because the injunctive relief
28 Plaintiffs seek benefits all putative members. See Access Now Inc.
v. Walt Disney World Co., 211 F.R.D. 452, 455 (M.D. Fla. 2001).
While this may be true, it does not make granting class
certification of these claims improper.

1 from discrimination on the basis of their disability under the ADA,
2 42 U.S.C. § 12132 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, 29
3 U.S.C. § 794(a), by forcing disabled individuals who could
4 otherwise remain in their homes to enter nursing homes or other
5 residential institutions.

6 State and Fresno Defendants argue that the disparity in the
7 manner in which counties have responded to section 12306.1(d)(6)
8 and the varying circumstances of individual class members regarding
9 their health, the services they receive and the county in which
10 they live precludes a finding of commonality. However, the
11 differences that exist here do not justify requiring individuals,
12 who would no longer receive assistance from IHSS if § 12306.1(d)(6)
13 were in effect, to prosecute separate actions.

14 With respect to the first two causes of action, the varied
15 responses of individual counties to the State's enactment of
16 § 12306.1(d)(6) are irrelevant to the State's duty under Section
17 30(A) of the Medicaid Act. Similarly, with the respect to the ADA
18 and Rehabilitation Act claims, Plaintiffs' theory is that the
19 decrease in IHSS provider rates in the twenty-one counties that
20 paid more than \$9.50 in wages before the statute was to be
21 implemented would reduce the number of IHSS providers in those
22 counties and increase the risk of institutionalization of disabled
23 and elderly individuals in violation of these statutes.

24 Plaintiffs' theory challenges the aggregate effect of
25 § 12306.1(d)(6), which can efficiently be adjudicated on a class-
26 wide basis, even if the specific rate decreases vary among
27 counties. Further, as noted above, common allegations that
28 Defendants' laws and policies are discriminatory suffice to

1 establish commonality of claims even where individual class
2 members' factual circumstances differ. See Armstrong, 275 F. 3d at
3 868; Walters v. Reno, 145 F.3d 1032, 1046 (9th Cir. 1998)
4 ("Differences among the class members" did not preclude class
5 certifications of plaintiffs' claims that challenged "general
6 practices" of government agency); Jordan v. Los Angeles County, 669
7 F.2d 1311, 1320 (9th Cir. 1982) vacated and rem'd on other grounds,
8 459 U.S. 810 (1982) ("[T]he legality of defendant's practice or
9 policies will usually be a question common to the class, and the
10 existence of different factual questions with respect to various
11 [plaintiffs] will not defeat satisfaction of the commonality
12 requirement"); Arnold v. United Artists Theatre Circuit, Inc., 158
13 F.R.D. 439, 448 (N.D. Cal. 1994). Accordingly, Plaintiffs have
14 satisfied the commonality requirement of Rule 23(a).

15 C. Typicality

16 The typicality prerequisite of Rule 23(a) is fulfilled if "the
17 claims or defenses of the representative parties are typical of the
18 claims or defenses of the class." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3).

19 "Where the challenged conduct is a policy or practice that affects
20 all class members, the underlying issue presented with typicality
21 is similar to that presented with respect to commonality, although
22 the emphasis may be different. Armstrong, 275 F.3d at 868-69. The
23 test for typicality is "whether other members have the same or
24 similar injury, whether the action is based on conduct which is not
25 unique to the named plaintiffs, and whether other class members
26 have been injured by the same course of conduct." Hanon v.
27 Dataproducts Corp., 976 F.2d 497, 508 (9th Cir. 1992) (quoting
28 Schwartz v. Harp, 108 F.R.D. 279, 282 (C.D. Cal. 1985)). "Under

1 the rule's permissive standards, representative claims are
2 'typical' if they are reasonably co-extensive with those of absent
3 class members; they need not be substantially identical." Hanlon,
4 150 F.3d at 1020.

5 Here, named Plaintiffs' claims mirror those of the class as a
6 whole. Named Plaintiffs and unnamed class members receive IHSS
7 services that allow them to remain safely at home; and, with the
8 passage of § 12306.1(d)(6), named Plaintiffs and unnamed class
9 members are threatened by the same risk of losing critical services
10 and of possible institutionalization. Further, named Plaintiffs in
11 the Fresno Subclass face the same risk of harm as the unnamed
12 members of the Fresno Subclass because Fresno Defendants' conduct
13 allegedly will lead to a reduction in the number of IHSS providers,
14 which will result in IHSS recipients becoming unable to live
15 outside of an institution.

16 Fresno Defendants respond that named Plaintiffs' claims are
17 not typical of Fresno class members because Defendants plan to
18 present "unique defenses which threaten to become the focus of the
19 litigation." Hanon, 976 F.2d at 508. Specifically, Fresno
20 Defendants claim that Fresno County has independent grounds for
21 reducing IHSS wages and Plaintiffs from other counties are not
22 subject to these defenses. However, the creation of a Fresno
23 Subclass addresses this issue. Only the named Plaintiffs from
24 Fresno and the Fresno Subclass are suing Fresno and any purported
25 defense available to Fresno Defendants would affect all members of
26 the Fresno Subclass equally. Thus, defenses that might apply to
27 the Fresno Subclass will not become the focus of the litigation.

28 State Defendants argue that the proposed creation of a Fresno

1 Subclass is an admission that there is no typicality among the
2 named Plaintiffs. The named Plaintiffs from Fresno County bring
3 separate claims against both State Defendants and Fresno
4 Defendants. There is no reason why a separate claim against Fresno
5 Defendants necessarily impacts the typicality requirement. In sum,
6 Plaintiffs satisfy the typicality requirement of Rule 23(a).

7 D. Adequacy of Representation

8 Rule 23(a)(4) requires that "the representative parties will
9 fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class." Fed. R.
10 Civ. P. 23(a)(4). The adequacy requirement consists of two
11 inquiries: "(1) do the representative plaintiffs and their counsel
12 have any conflicts of interest with other class members, and
13 (2) will the representative plaintiffs and their counsel prosecute
14 the action vigorously on behalf of the class?" Staton v. Boeing
15 Co., 327 F.3d 938, 958 (9th Cir. 2003).

16 State Defendants argue that the class representatives are
17 inadequate because they reside in only four of the twenty-one
18 counties that they seek to represent and the IHSS programs and
19 program recipients vary by county. State Defendants do not address
20 how these points are relevant to demonstrating antagonism within
21 the class or to whether named Plaintiffs will prosecute the action
22 vigorously. Plaintiffs adequately allege that section
23 12306.1(d)(6), if not enjoined, would apply equally to all members
24 of the proposed class, and injunctive relief would benefit all
25 members of the class. Plaintiffs have satisfied the adequacy prong
26 of 23(a).

27 II. Class Certification Under Rule 23(b)(2)

28 Plaintiffs move that the class be certified as an injunctive

1 relief class under Rule 23(b)(2). Rule 23(b)(2) permits
2 certification where "the party opposing the class has acted or
3 refused to act on grounds that apply generally to the class, so
4 that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is
5 appropriate respecting the class as a whole." Fed. R. Civ. P.
6 23(b). "Class certification under Rule 23(b)(2) is appropriate
7 only where the primary relief sought is declaratory or injunctive."
8 Zinser v. Accufix Research Institute, Inc., 253 F.3d 1180, 1195
9 (9th Cir. 2001).

10 Although common issues must predominate for class
11 certification under Rule 23(b)(3), no such requirement exists under
12 Rule 23(b)(2). "It is sufficient if class members complain of a
13 pattern or practice that is generally applicable to the class as a
14 whole. Even if some class members have not been injured by the
15 challenged practice, a class may nevertheless be appropriate."
16 Walters v. Reno, 145 F.3d 1032, 1047 (9th Cir. 1998); see 7A
17 Charles Alan Wright, Arthur R. Miller & Mary Kay Kane, Federal
18 Practice & Procedure § 1775 (2d ed. 1986) ("All the class members
19 need not be aggrieved by or desire to challenge the defendant's
20 conduct in order for some of them to seek relief under Rule
21 23(b)(2)."); see also Adamson v. Bowen, 855 F.2d 668, 676 (10th
22 Cir. 1988) (emphasizing that, although "the claims of individual
23 class members may differ factually," certification under Rule
24 23(b)(2) is a proper vehicle for challenging "a common policy").

25 Plaintiffs challenge the implementation of § 12306.1(d)(6),
26 which applies to all members of the proposed class and subclass,
27 even if its effects are experienced differently by individual IHSS
28 recipients throughout California. Class certification for

1 injunctive relief is appropriate in this case because State and
2 Fresno Defendants are alleged to have acted "on grounds that apply
3 generally to the class." Accordingly, the Court certifies a class
4 under Rule 23(b)(2).

5 III. Class Definition

6 State Defendants argue that Plaintiffs' proposed class
7 definition is too broad because named Plaintiffs cannot represent
8 IHSS recipients in counties other than those in which they live.
9 State Defendants assert that the Court should narrow the class to
10 the counties in which named Plaintiffs reside, if those counties
11 sought to reduce IHSS provider wages and benefits. Their argument
12 is not persuasive. Plaintiffs may represent a class of IHSS
13 consumers in all counties where, at the time section 12306.1(d)(6)
14 was implemented, IHSS providers were paid wages that exceeded \$9.50
15 per hour or paid a combination of wages and benefits that exceeded
16 \$10.10 per hour. Plaintiffs allege that, had section 12306.1(d)(6)
17 not been enjoined, IHSS consumers in each of these counties would
18 have been affected. At this stage in the litigation, it does not
19 matter that not all of the twenty-one counties that fit this
20 description did not seek to reduce provider rates immediately on
21 the law's effective date. If the State were not enjoined, these
22 counties would be impacted by the rate change. Therefore, the
23 Court will accept Plaintiffs' proposed class definition.

24 CONCLUSION

25 For the foregoing reasons, the Court grants Plaintiffs' motion
26 for class certification pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and
27 (b)(2) for injunctive and declaratory relief. Docket No. 245. The
28 Court notes that, although it grants certification,

1 "[d]eterminations to certify a class depend on initial predication
2 and are always subject to revision." Tardiff v. Knox County, 365
3 F.3d 1, 6 (1st Cir. 2004). The Court can always decertify the
4 class should that become necessary.

5 For the first through fourth causes of action against State
6 Defendants, the Plaintiff Class is defined as:

7 All In-Home Supportive Services consumers residing in
8 Alameda, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Marin, Mendocino,
9 Monterey, Napa, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito,
10 San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara,
11 Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo counties.

12 For the third and fourth causes of action against Fresno
13 Defendants, the Fresno Subclass is defined as: "All In-Home
14 Supportive Services consumers residing in Fresno County."

15 The Court appoints Plaintiffs' counsel to serve as class
16 counsel. Plaintiffs need not notify absent class members of the
17 certification. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(A).

18 IT IS SO ORDERED.

19 Dated: 06/08/10



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CLAUDIA WILKEN
United States District Judge