

**Taura Mizrahi—Sample Acceptance Speech**  
**The Write Approach 310.282.8177**

Thank you very much for this honor. After so many years working to promote the plight of caregivers in California, I feel very happy and satisfied that they are being recognized today. In my role as an attorney and educator I see firsthand the inequality and inconsistencies in programs that caregivers face. Whether you are married or single, whether your income is adequate or low, determines your eligibility for public programs. My goal is to help all caregivers get the support, assistance and information they need to make their lives easier.

I am so proud to work with so many organizations that put caregivers first. My own office at Bet Tzedek Legal Services, the Alzheimer's Association, the city and county Departments of Aging, the Los Angeles Caregiver Resource Center, the California Coalition for Caregivers along with AARP, and many others have been dedicated to making high quality services available to caregivers and care recipients for at least ten years.

Every day I am inspired by my clients and by caregivers for the lengths they go to in order to maintain their loved ones at home. Against all odds and with very little resources I have seen amazing examples of the extraordinary love and work needed to take on the challenge of care giving.

One caregiver in particular has really inspired me and he is here with us today, Jerry [REDACTED]. I first met Jerry right here at USC where I was giving a talk on paying for Long Term Care. Jerry asked me why the state would not help him care for his wife at home, but would pay entirely for her care in a nursing home. Although that was the law, I found a waiver program to cover Harriet's care at home. Today, Medi-Cal laws have changed to treat patients who are cared for at home on an equal footing as those in nursing homes. This is progress but there is still a long way to go. Although Harriet passed away last year, I am proud to have helped Jerry care for her at home with dignity and love.

My vision is to see quality programs that are only available to some made available to all. I know that when I speak to groups of people the information I give informs and inspires them to work together and change the system leading to quality of care and equality in access.

I am grateful to KCET and AARP for recognizing caregivers' very crucial and often challenging roles. Sloane Allen, Susan Davis, Carrie Jefferies, and Nelson Sanchez who are being honored here tonight are examples to model ourselves by. I would also like to thank AARP's Rigo Saborio and staff for their dedication to care giving issues. And of course, I would like to thank my friends and family for their love and support of me and my work.

Thank you.