



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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Soon to be Disability Rights California

September 9, 2008

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 3010 (Blakeslee) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Protection & Advocacy, Inc. (PAI), a non-profit advocacy organization mandated to advance the human and legal rights of people with disabilities, supports AB 3010. We respectfully request your signature.

This bill adds section 4138 to the Welfare & Institutions Code, which prohibits the use of tobacco products by anyone on state hospital grounds, except on the premises of residential staff housing where patients are not present. This bill would require the Director of Mental Health to create an implementation plan for any state hospital where smoking is prohibited. The implementation plan would be required to include a phase-in period, an exemption for any departmentally approved religious ceremonies, and specified smoking cessation programs for requesting patients. Finally, it prohibits the sale of tobacco products on state hospital grounds.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our position on this bill.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Margaret Johnson, Esq.
Protection & Advocacy, Inc.
Advocacy Director

CC: Honorable Sam Blakeslee, Author, California State Assembly

CC: Christine Robertson, Chief of Staff, Assembly Member Blakeslee's office