

June 13, 2008

Honorable Darrell Steinberg
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1380 (Steinberg) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Steinberg:

Protection & Advocacy, Inc. (PAI), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances the human and legal rights of people with disabilities supports SB 1380. This bill is set to be heard in the Assembly Human Services Committee on June 17, 2008.

Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) Programs, the subject of SB 1380, offer youth with serious emotional and behavioral problems a foster family-based alternative to institutional care. These programs are designed to give children intensive, highly individualized treatment in a homelike setting. The most positive aspect of this bill is that it expands the definition of eligible children and thus, will enable children to access ITFC who may not have been able to access this important service under current law. This bill also expands the areas that must be addressed in a participating child's needs and services plan, which will ensure that the plan addresses important domains of a child's life.

Thank you for working to improve services for foster care youth. 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 large initial "M" and "J".

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

CC: Honorable Chair and Members, Assembly Human Services Committee
CC: Eric Gelber, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services Committee
CC: Karen Ziebron, District Representative, Senator Steinberg's office