



**LEGISLATION &
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September 3, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1196 (Gipson) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 1196 and requests your signature.**

AB 1196 would prohibit a law enforcement agency from authorizing the use of a carotid restraint or a choke hold and techniques or transport methods that involve a substantial risk of positional asphyxia.

The carotid restraint is one of the most commonly used strangleholds. To perform this hold, a peace officer applies pressure on either side of the windpipe—but not on the windpipe itself—to slow or stop the flow of blood to the brain via the carotid arteries. While designed to render subjects unconscious, this hold can go wrong in two main ways: either when improperly applied, or when a subject's physical disposition—if they suffer from coronary artery disease, for example—makes the hold dangerous or lethal. Simply maintaining restricted blood flow for one minute after the suspect is rendered unconscious can lead to irreversible brain damage. Persons with disabilities can be particularly vulnerable to these holds due both to particular impairments that they may have and because they are often applied to behaviors related to impairments, such as mental

impairments and intellectual and developmental disabilities, that can be mistaken by law enforcement as belligerent behavior.

These methods of restraining suspects are incredibly risky and should no longer be allowed to be used by law enforcement. Prohibiting the carotid restraint will create uniformity across the state and ensure that it will no longer be improperly applied on Californians.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill and requests your signature. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Child". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Curtis" and last name "Child" clearly distinguishable.

Curtis Child
Legislative Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Mike Gipson, California State Assembly
Abraham Mendoza, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member
Gipson
Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of
Legislative Affairs
Mitchell Rosenberg, Legislative Assistant, Office of Legislative Affairs