



**LEGISLATION &
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April 29, 2021

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1304 (SANTIAGO) as amended April 5, 2021 SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 1304**, which would strengthen requirements for cities and counties to analyze and proactively address fair housing issues in their housing elements as part of their obligation to affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH).

AB 1304 builds on your prior bill, AB 686 (Chapter 958, Statutes of 2018), which required public agencies, including state and local government entities, to affirmatively further fair housing in all housing and community development-related activities. AB 686 additionally required cities and counties to meaningfully integrate AFFH into their housing elements. AFFH means that government entities must take active steps to dismantle segregation, foster inclusive communities, create equal housing opportunities, address disinvestment in low-income neighborhoods, and protect residents from displacement. They are also prohibited from taking actions that are inconsistent with the AFFH obligation.

Since the enactment of AB 686, it has become clear that there is a need for more explicit language related to AFFH requirements in housing element

law. AB 1304 clarifies these requirements in a number of ways, including more explicitly requiring that a jurisdiction's inventory of housing sites be consistent with the AFFH obligation, requiring that jurisdictions look at fair housing issues through both a local and regional lens, requiring that jurisdictions take into account historical context when assessing contributing factors for fair housing issues, and requiring jurisdictions to state explicit goals, objectives, and policies related to AFFH. These changes will help ensure that all local governments are thoroughly examining fair housing issues and taking concrete steps to address them.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory Cramer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregory Cramer
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Honorable Miguel Santiago, California State Assembly
Marilyn Limon, Legislative Director, Office of Assemblymember
Santiago