March 17, 2020

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes  
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 124  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2935 (MATHIS) as introduced February 21, 2020 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblywoman Reyes:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports AB 2935.

Existing law requires regional centers to include specified information on their internet websites to promote transparency and access to public information, including, among other things, regional center annual independent audits and purchase of service policies. The Department must also establish and maintain a transparency portal on its internet website.

The California Public Records Act provides that public records of a state or local agency are open to inspection at all times during the office hours of the state or local agency. Every person has a right to inspect any public record, except as provided in the act.

This bill would require regional center websites to conform to a standardized format developed by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). It would also require regional centers to make a good faith effort to provide any data available to the public in a machine-readable format.
It is important that access to information is easy for regional center consumers and their families. Regional center websites are used by consumers and their families to get a better understanding of the complex systems our state employs for people with developmental disabilities.

AB 2935 will help ensure transparency and accountability for all regional centers. Transparency and accountability will strengthen the relationship between consumers and regional centers.

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,

Eric Harris  
Legislative Advocate 2  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Human Services Committee