



**LEGISLATION &
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July 2, 2021

Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Appropriations
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 4203
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 435 (MULLIN) as amended March 11, 2021 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 435**. This bill is scheduled for hearing before Senate Appropriations on July 5, 2021.

Current law requires that a licensed audiologist, upon the consummation of the sale of a hearing aid to deliver to a purchaser have specified information, including the address, office hours and available written warranty.

AB 435 would require that written notice be given to the purchaser, which explains that the hearing aid can only be serviced in specific facilities and locations. The written notice would then have to be signed by the purchaser before the sale.

The deaf and hard of hearing community often depend on assistive technology, such as hearing aids, to navigate their daily life. It is crucial that they have hearing technology that is dependable with a process that is consumer friendly and dependable. Receiving notice and detailed information regarding the locations where the hearing aids can be serviced

is crucial to the community. In some cases the deaf individual can be a young child or an older adult, and protecting those communities by ensuring that they will receive adequate service for their hearing aids is important.

For these reasons, DRC supports AB 435. 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, appearing to read "Eric Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "E" and "H".

Eric Harris
Director of Public Policy
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Honorable Kevin Mullin, California State Assembly
Meegen Murray, Legislative Director, Office of Kevin Mullin