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June 2, 2021

Honorable Melissa Hurtado
Chair, Human Services Committee
California State Senate
1020 N Street, Room 521
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 445 (Calderon) as introduced February 8, 2021 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hurtado:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 445**. This bill is scheduled for hearing before Senate Human Services Committee on June 8, 2021.

Disability Rights California (DRC) supports AB 445, a bill to remove an outdated data collection requirement. DRC cares deeply about ensuring that all Californians eligible for regional center services can access what they need to live full lives in communities of their choosing. The section of code this bill would remove, however, is a barrier to access.

DRC has seen, on a number of occasions, where some families will choose not to disclose certain information because of fear and a lack of trust for the system. This is true of many Black and Latinx families, who have had frustrating experiences in a number of systems and programs. By being required to give unneeded personal information, some families will simply choose not to accept regional center services. This means their family member will go without these critical services, which they're entitled to.

This bill will remove a barrier that disproportionately affects the most vulnerable Californian families and will help ensure that the benefits of the Lanterman Act can reach all people who are eligible for its services.

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, appearing to read "Eric Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric Harris
Director of Public Policy
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Human Services Committee
Honorable Lisa Calderon, California State Assembly
Arnell Rusanganwa, Office of Assemblymember Calderon