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March 28, 2021

Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Health Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 714 (Maienschein) as amended March 11, 2021 SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 714**. This bill will be heard before Assembly Health committee.

Existing law requires a skilled nursing facility to report communicable disease data to the State Department of Public Health, residents of the skilled nursing facility, and their representatives and family members, but only in the event of a declared public emergency related to a communicable disease.

AB 714 would mandate skilled nursing facilities, long term care facilities, and other congregate living health facilities as defined in Section 1250 of the Health and Safety code to notify residents and their responsible parties of an instance of a communicable disease that occurs within the facility.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in January of 2020, a specialized health care facility located in Los Angeles failed to properly notify residents and prospective residents about a Covid-19 positive patient to the facility. To date, that facility has reported 97 deaths. Many of these deaths could have been prevented, as some families were

sending their elderly family members to this facility without knowledge of positive Covid-19 cases among facility residents. AB 714 will help protect the elderly and people with disabilities in nursing facilities if a similar health crisis occurs and allows family members to make informed choices.

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 "Sawait Seyoum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sawait Seyoum
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee
Honorable Brian Maienschein, California State Assembly
Office of Assembly Member Maineschein
Gino Folchi, Consultant, Republican Caucus