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June 30, 2021

Honorable Melissa Hurtado
Chair, Human Services
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 813 (MULLIN) as amended April 14, 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 813**. AB 813 will help improve the quality of services and increase transparency by linking California funding to defined services with measurable outcomes. This bill will be heard in Senate Human Services on July 6, 2021.

DRC advocates so that people with intellectual/developmental disabilities can live, work, and play where they chose. In 2017, Public Counsel developed a report on equity and disparities for children with developmental disabilities. The new report showed that the 10 regional centers that serve a majority of Black and Latino clients on average, authorize \$3,887 less per client compared to the regional centers that serve a majority of white and Asian clients. The five regional centers that have the highest percentage of Black and Latino clients, on average authorize \$6,738 less per client when compared to the five regional centers with the highest percentage of white and Asian clients. Former State Senate Pro

Tem Darrell Steinberg created a Task Force on Equity and Diversity to focus on some of these issues.¹

Racial and ethnic minorities with intellectual and developmental disabilities have a compounded risk of underutilization of general care services. These people often live at home and do not live in structured settings. Individuals living with their families or independently are less likely to receive preventative care.² California must address some of these issues to ensure that people of color with intellectual and developmental disabilities have fair opportunities and are treated with equity. First, California must examine the data.

AB 813 establishes an innovative data-driven pilot project. It will develop and test measurable service standards with defined outcomes. That data does not currently exist in California and has made it difficult for policymakers to link measurable outcomes to appropriate funding levels.

The proposed pilot project also addresses the fundamental issues of racial disparities, inequities, service quality inconsistencies and funding deficiencies that continue to plague our developmental disability service system.

Administered by the Department of Developmental Services, AB 813 will help define, track, measure and deliver quality outcomes in the developmental disability service area. These outcomes will include clear and consistent standards for service delivery, and measure the success that consumers experience as they use these services to access their chosen ways of life.

To effectively support all people with developmental disabilities, disadvantaged communities, people of color and low-income populations, the State must design a service system that:

- Ensures health and safety during changing circumstances;

¹ Assuring Equitable Funding of Services for Children with Developmental Disabilities. Public Counsel. 2017. https://issuu.com/publiccounsel/docs/assuring_equitable_funding_of_servi?e=29495352/49041713 “Return to Main Document”

² Exploring Health Disparities Among People with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities. What are the issues and does race and ethnicity play a role? National Core Indicators https://na.eventscloud.com/file_uploads/0780fe96d5dba7fc73f25138fd912b3e_IDD.pdf “Return to Main Document”

- Creates a person-centered service structure based on user-defined results;
- Effectively uses resources by matching specific services with needs;
- Is easily used by people of all sociological and educational backgrounds;
- Delivers culturally competent services so individuals can use them based on their personal identities;
- Includes linguistic variations for service users' preferred language;
- Pays competitive wages to help recruit and retain quality support professionals to provide services; and
- Hires & trains skilled employees who help professionalize the system.

The Pave Pilot Project will Pave the way Forward and help ensure government resources are precise linked to measurable outcomes.

PAVE's solution is to:

- Define clear, consistent, and measurable service outcomes;
- Create an outcome-based curriculum outline for training DSPs, case managers, service users, and their support circles;
- Work with experts in applied statistics and total quality management to create ways to measure quality service outcomes
- Build a software prototype that can use person-centered purchasing to collect satisfaction and usage data from DDS clients;
- Create a small three-year pilot project for testing; and
- Provide a full report to the State regarding initial results and prepare a proposed DDS system implementation plan.

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", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric Harris
Director of Public Policy
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Human Services
Honorable Kevin Mullin, California State Assembly
Elana Ortiz, Office of Assemblymember Mullin
Mark Melanson, Executive Director, California Community Living
Network