



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC  
INFORMATION UNIT**  
1831 K Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811-4114  
Tel: (916) 504-5800  
TTY: (800) 719-5798  
Intake Line: (800) 776-5746  
Fax: (916) 504-5807  
[www.disabilityrightsca.org](http://www.disabilityrightsca.org)

July 19, 2018

Honorable Anthony Portantino  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
California State Senate  
Capitol Building, Room 3086  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1013 (LOW) as amended April 19, 2018 – 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 1013**. This bill will soon come before you for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1013: 1) requires a county elections official to permit voters with a disability, or military or overseas voters, to cast ballots using a certified remote accessible vote by mail system; 2) provides that these provisions do not apply to a county that conducts an election pursuant to the California Voter's Choice Act, and; 3) provides that these provisions become operative on January 1, 2020, or one year after the date on which the Secretary of State certifies a remote accessible vote by mail system pursuant to existing provisions of law, whichever is later.

Vote by mail, while useful for some people with disabilities, is inaccessible for numbers of voters with disabilities, such as those who are blind, have manual dexterity disabilities, or learning disabilities. Paper ballots are also not accessible to people with certain disabilities because they cannot read or mark the ballot unassisted. Therefore, they cannot vote privately or independently as required by the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

By allowing county officials to permit voters with disabilities to cast ballots using a certified remote accessible vote by mail system, this measure will help ensure that people with disabilities can vote privately and independently when paper ballots are not accessible to them.

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 "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the last name.

Evelyn Abouhassan  
Senior Legislative Advocate  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Evan Low, California State Assembly  
Monica Tong, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Low  
Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Robert Ingenito, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Cory Botts, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee