



**LEGISLATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

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April 2, 2019

Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Chair, Public Safety Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1170 (Frazier) as amended March 21, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer, Sr.:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 1170**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Public Safety Committee on April 9, 2019.

Increased behavioral health training reduces the negative interactions between police officers and people who have mental health, intellectual or developmental disabilities. DRC has long supported preparing law enforcement officers to recognize, de-escalate, and appropriately respond to persons with mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, or substance use disorders. We have served as subject matter experts for the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), on several officer-training courses, including an expanded 8-hour course on interacting with individuals with mental health disabilities in crisis. DRC has worked with other statewide experts, mental health advocates, practitioners, and law enforcement officers, to identify key issues that field training officers need to address and master. DRC staff also served on an expert panel to develop a tool kit that includes best practices and a how-to guide for implementing successful Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trainings and

programs. We have also provided assistance in POST courses on hate crimes and interviewing victims with disabilities.

AB 1170 continues the important work of ensuring that POST training will prepare law enforcement officers with the best tools for reducing negative interactions between law enforcement and persons with disabilities. Specifically, this bill would require POST, on or before January 1, 2021, and in consultation with the State Department of Developmental Services, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and representatives of community colleges, to incorporate in-person training provided by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities into that training course.

DRC has suggested amendments to the author for his consideration that would: 1) specify the protection and advocacy agency as one of the entities that should be consulted on the training course, and 2) direct the incorporation of individuals with mental health disabilities into the training. We have suggested that Section 13515.25 (c) be amended as follows:

(c) The commission shall, on or before January 1, 2021, and in consultation with the State Department of Developmental Services, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, ~~and~~ representatives of community colleges, and the protection and advocacy agency, as defined by Section 4900(i) of the Welfare and Institutions Code, incorporate in-person training provided by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health disabilities into the commission's training programs created pursuant to this section.

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.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Child". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Curtis" and last name "Child" clearly distinguishable.

Curtis Child
Legislative Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Gregory Pagan, Chief Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Honorable Jim Frazier, California State Assembly
Eric Thronson, Chief Consultant, Office of Assembly Member Frazier
Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee