



**LEGISLATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

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April 16, 2019

Honorable Eloise Gomez Reyes
Chair, Human Services Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1295 (Quirk-Silva) as introduced February 22, 2019 – OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Reyes:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **regrets to inform you that we respectfully oppose AB 1295**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Human Services Committee on April 23, 2019.

Existing law authorizes the Director of General Services, with the consent of the state agency concerned, to take certain actions with regard to state property, including, among other things, letting any real or personal property that belongs to the state for a period not to exceed 5 years, if the director deems the letting to be in the best interest of the state.

Existing law vests in the State Department of Developmental Services jurisdiction over various state hospitals, referred to as developmental centers, for the provision of care to persons with developmental disabilities. Existing law prohibits the admission of a person to a developmental center except under certain circumstances, including when the person is experiencing an acute crisis and is committed by a court to the acute crisis center at the Fairview Developmental Center or the Sonoma Developmental Center. Existing law requires the State Department of Developmental Services, on or before October 1, 2015, to submit to the

Legislature a plan or plans to close one or more developmental centers, as provided.

This bill, notwithstanding the provisions described above, would require the State Department of Developmental Services and the Department of General Services, in consultation with local cities, counties, and other relevant stakeholders, to establish a temporary mental health program on the premises of one currently operating developmental center on or before July 1, 2019, to assist individuals with severe mental illness in need of housing and supportive services. The bill would require the program to be established on the premises of the developmental center with the largest homeless population in the county in which the developmental center is located. The bill would require the program to accommodate up to 200 individuals and provide program participants with access to housing and onsite services, as specified. The bill would require the intake process for the program to prioritize the needs of severely mentally ill individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness. The bill would require the departments to ensure that the program does not impair or impede the treatment of consumers residing at the developmental center. The bill would cease operation of the temporary mental health program on December 31, 2021, or on the date of the developmental center site's closure, whichever is earlier. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2022.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

On October 1, 2015, the Department of Developmental Services submitted a closure plan for the Sonoma Development Center to be closed by the end of 2018. A closure plan for the Fairview Developmental Center and the Porterville Development Center was submitted to the Legislature on April 1, 2016 with the goal of closing both facilities by 2021. "As of December 17, 2018, Sonoma Developmental Center transitioned all former residents to community living. The General Treatment Area at the Porterville Developmental Center and Fairview Developmental Center are estimated to transition the remaining residents to community living by September 30

and December 31, 2019 respectively.”¹

Additionally, developing new housing and services on a segregated, institutional site in 2019 is going against state and national trends of instead providing community based services and supports.

For these reasons, DRC opposes 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 stylized with a large "E" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric Harris
Legislative Advocate 2
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Human Services Committee
Daphne Hunt, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services
Committee
Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva, California State Assembly
Michelle Teran, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member
Quirk-Silva
Cyndi Hillery, Budget Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Committee

¹ State Operated Residential and Community Facilities 2019-2020 Governor's Budget, M-1
https://www.dds.ca.gov/Budget/Docs/2019_2020RC-DCNovemberEstimate.pdf "Return to Main Document"