



**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

June 19, 2017

Honorable Ed Hernandez
Chair, Health Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1315 (MULLIN) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hernandez:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports AB 1315. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Health Committee on June 28, 2017.

AB 1315 provides the opportunity to expand evidenced-based early psychosis detection and intervention services and supports to transition-aged youth and young adults who are at-risk of, or experiencing, psychotic symptoms or have other serious mood disorders.

Assembly Member Mullin's AB 1315 would accomplish this by creating a public-private partnership to leverage competitive funding for counties. Counties would then direct the new funding to develop innovative approaches and evaluation tools and ultimately create new local capacity for early detection and treatment of youth early psychosis.

Under AB 1315, counties that choose to participate must meet specified requirements for evidence-based services and supports and provide a contribution of local funds, such as Mental Health Services Act moneys. Private donations would provide the critical incentive for local communities

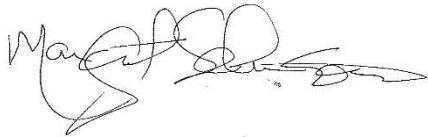
to become engaged and focus on this substantive gap in services that, if untreated, can initiate a trajectory of accumulating disability in adulthood.

AB 1315 provides for an expedited competitive selection process to be administered by the Commission, under the leadership of the Advisory Committee. This entire process would be structured and awarded through the collaboration of these two entities. The intent is to provide timely expertise, a defined public administrative process, and the ability to create new programs or to expand and improve existing ones at the local level.

Nearly 100,000 adolescents and young adults experience first-episode psychosis each year. California needs to meet this challenge with intensive early psychosis and detection programs at the local level.

For these reasons, we support this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position on this bill.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Johnson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Margaret Johnson, Esq.
Advocacy Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Kevin Mullin, California State Assembly
Hugh Bower, Chief of Staff, Office of Assembly Member Mullin
Honorable Members, Senate Health Committee
Reyes Diaz, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee