



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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August 7, 2017

Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Appropriations Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1375 (DABABNEH) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lara:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports AB 1375. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 21, 2017.

This bill would require the Department of Social Services (DSS) to create and maintain a database and post it on its website with a list of placement sites with a daily census of available beds and a comprehensive list of services provided by the facility based on reports from licensed foster family agencies reporting. The posted information would allow county child welfare departments and county probation departments to view the information for the purpose of placing children, youth, dependents, and wards in placement settings if the placing agency is unable to timely place the individual in a foster family home or a resource family home.


This bill will also require DSS to convene a workgroup of interested stakeholders to develop recommendations for implementation of this bill including the issuance of an All County Letter which will ensure ongoing progress for improving the listings.

The challenges of placing foster youth have been well-documented. The lack of available homes, the special medical and psychological needs of many children and youth, and the existence and severity of behavioral problems all compound the placement problem. As a result, placements are often made in unsuitable homes or facilities and multiple placements become commonplace to the detriment of the children and youth.

AB 1375 will give county placing agencies data and information to make the most appropriate and effective placements. It will also provide extremely valuable information on placement changes and the reasons for those changes. Both will improve the outcomes for foster children and youth.

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 "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 Matthew Dababneh, California State Assembly
Daniel Okenfuss, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member
Dababneh
Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Debra Cooper, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Brian Capra, Public Counsel