



**LEGISLATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

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June 3, 2019

Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Public Safety Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1421 (BAUER-KAHAN) as introduced February 22, 2019 –
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Skinner:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 1421**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Public Safety Committee on June 11, 2019.

Existing law prohibits an individual on probation from being re-arrested or incarcerated for their inability to pay court ordered restitution unless the defendant had the ability to pay and willfully failed to do so. This is not the same for court orders fines, fees, or assessments on defendants. AB 1421 would codify the same protection for probationers and other persons on supervised release for the nonpayment of fees, fines and assessments, subject to the same conditions as for nonpayment of restitution.

Persons with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system. This includes the impact of assessed fees, fines and other assessments. The result is that they may be subject to the revocation of their probation for simply being too poor to pay the assessments while they are otherwise complying with all other terms and conditions of their probation. AB 1421 recognizes the harmful impact that may have on an

individual and conforms the law on fees and assessments to court ordered restitution.

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, Senate Public Safety Committee
Mary Kennedy, Chief Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee
Gregory Pagan, Chief Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, California State Assembly
John Skoglund, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member
Bauer-Kahan
Eric Csizmar, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Committee