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July 13, 2018

Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Appropriations Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1547 (QUIRK-SILVA) as amended June 18, 2018 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 1547**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 6, 2018.

Existing law establishes the Capital Access Loan Program. The Capital Access Loan Program includes the Small Business Capital Access Loan Program (ADA Program) to assist small businesses in financing the costs of projects that alter or retrofit existing small business facilities to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Among its many provisions, AB 1547 makes changes to the ADA Program to improve participation and better target the specific kinds of small businesses intended to benefit from the program. The measure expands the definition of “small business” from 15 or fewer full-time employees or that has less than \$5,000,000 in total gross annual income from all sources, to a business with 30 or fewer full-time employees or that has less than \$5,000,000 in total gross annual income from all sources. Thus, it expands the types of businesses that qualify for funding under the ADA Program.

DRC supports AB 1547 because the change in the definition of the small business size for purposes of loan eligibility advances disability access compliance. It is a proactive measure that provides resources and incentives to more businesses to comply with the law and promotes equal access for individuals with disabilities. As such, this provision in the bill is a step in the right direction and helps to protect the civil rights of individuals with disabilities.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Evelyn M. Abouhassan".

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva, California State Assembly
Toni Symonds, Chief Consultant, Assembly Jobs, Economic
Development & the Economy Committee
Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Anissa Badea, Fellow, Senate Appropriations Committee
Kayla Williams, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Committee