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June 25, 2018

Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Education Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 5072
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1754 (MCCARTY) as amended June 18, 2018 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Allen:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 1754**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Education Committee on June 27, 2018.

Existing law provides that “income eligible,” for purposes of the Child Care and Development Services Act, means that a family’s adjusted monthly income is at or below 70% of the state median income, adjusted for family size, and adjusted annually.

AB1754 revises the eligibility requirements for full-day preschool programs operated at any California public school, including a charter school that has at least 40% of its pupils being from low-income families, pursuant to Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965, or a community-based organization that contracts with the school or school district. While the measure streamlines eligibility for state preschool programs, it ensures priority eligibility for homeless, neglected and abused youth, income eligible students, and directly certifies students who qualify for Medi-Cal or Medicaid.

Youth with cognitive and emotional disabilities benefit from quality pre-kindergarten services. Early intervention in a child's education, including youth with disabilities, can increase cognitive, language, social and emotional development. AB 1754 will ensure students from our most underserved communities, including students with disabilities in these communities, will get the educational opportunities they need. 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 Kevin McCarty, California State Assembly
Buck Ellingson, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member
McCarty
Honorable Members, Senate Education Committee
Olgalilia Ramirez, Consultant, Senate Education Committee
Debbie Look, Senior Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Roger Mackensen, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Committee