



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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April 19, 2018

Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Education Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1754 (MCCARTY) as introduced – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member O'Donnell:

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 Assembly Education Committee on April 25, 2018.

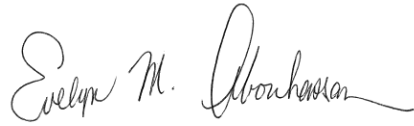
Existing law requires the Superintendent to administer all California state preschool programs, which include part-day age and developmentally appropriate programs for 3- and 4-year-old children. Existing law provides that 3- and 4-year-old children are eligible for the state part-day preschool program if the family meets one of several eligibility requirements, including income eligibility.

AB 1754 requires the state to provide all 4-year-old children who meet those eligibility requirements with access to early care and education programs.

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. Such programs may assist with academic success

and prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system. 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, reading "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

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, Assembly Education Committee
Debbie Look, Senior Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Robert Becker, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee