



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC  
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April 2, 2018

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
California State Assembly  
Capitol Building, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1865 (LACKEY) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 1865**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on April 4, 2018.

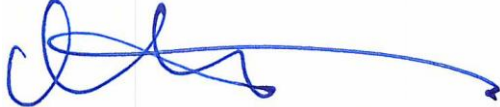
We appreciate the author's recognition that the death of or injury to a guide, signal, or service dog is a significant loss to the person who relies on the dog for assistance. This is true regardless of whether death or injury occurs while the dog is "working."

Notwithstanding the tremendous emotional and personal loss experienced by a person whose dog is killed or injured, there is also the loss of a person's lifeline to work and community. The law should recognize the severity of this loss to the dog's owner, which can be just as devastating and incapacitating as it would be if the dog had been discharging its duties at the time.

Applying the bill's provisions to dogs in training is a step in the right direction of recognizing that dogs trained to provide assistance reflect an investment in the independence of people who rely on their canine support.

For these reasons, we support this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Deb Roth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deb Roth  
Senior Legislative Advocate  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Jennifer Swenson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Honorable Tom Lackey, California State Assembly  
Amanda Hernandez, Office of Assembly Member Lackey  
Margie Donovan, California Council of the Blind