



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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February 7, 2018

Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Chair, Public Safety Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1865 (LACKEY) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer,

Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 1865**, which will soon be before you for hearing.

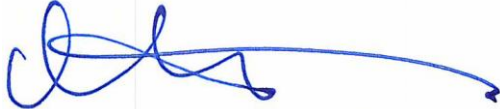
We appreciate the author's recognition that the death of or injury to a guide, signal, or service dog is a significant loss to the person who relies on the dog for assistance. This is true regardless of whether death or injury occurs while the dog is "working."

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 Public Safety Committee
Sandy Uribe, Deputy Chief Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Honorable Tom Lackey, California State Assembly
Amanda Hernandez, Office of Assembly Member Lackey
Margie Donovan, California Council of the Blind