



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
INFORMATION UNIT**
1831 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-4114
Tel: (916) 504-5800
TTY: (800) 719-5798
Intake Line: (800) 776-5746
Fax: (916) 504-5807
www.disabilityrightsca.org

March 13, 2018

Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Health Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1893 (MAIENSCHN) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 1893**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on March 20, 2018.

The federal Bringing Postpartum Depression Out of the Shadows Act passed in the House and Senate and was signed by President Obama as part of the 21st Century Cures Act in December 2016, which includes a section addressing treatment and screening for maternal depression. The legislation builds on state and local efforts toward helping women suffering from postpartum depression and offers federal funding to train health care providers to screen and treat mothers for maternal mental health disorders. This federal legislation recognizes the prevalence of women who suffer from maternal mental health disorders. In California, it is estimated that at least 100,000 women suffer from the disorder.

This bill would require the department to investigate and apply for federal funding opportunities regarding maternal mental health and to prepare a report to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2020, on how the department plans to use any federal funding it receives. This bill will move

California further toward providing more comprehensive maternal mental health services to women.

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.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Child". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Curtis" and last name "Child" clearly distinguishable.

Curtis Child
Legislative Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Brian Maienschein, California State Assembly
Christine Rose, Scheduler, Office of Assembly Member Maienschein
Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee
Lara Flynn, Principal Consultant, Assembly Health Committee