



**LEGISLATION &
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September 2, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1950 (Kamlager) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 1950 and requests your signature.**

AB 1950 would restrict the period of probation for a misdemeanor to no longer than one year, instead of the current maximum of three years except when any offense that includes specific probation lengths within its provisions. It would also authorize a court to impose a term of probation not longer than 2 years in an order granting probation instead of the current period which cannot exceed the maximum term for which the individual could be imprisoned, except for any offense that includes specific probation lengths within its provisions or a felony conviction if the total value of the property taken exceeds \$25,000.

Persons with disabilities are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system, particularly those who have mental health disabilities that intersect with race and color. Research by the California Budget & Policy Center shows that probation services, such as mental healthcare and addiction treatment, are most effective during the first 18 months of supervision. Research also indicates that providing increased supervision

and services earlier reduces an individual's likelihood to recidivate. A shorter term of probation, allowing for an increased emphasis on services, should lead to improved outcomes for both people on misdemeanor and felony probation while reducing the number of people on probation returning to incarceration.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill and requests your signature. 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 Sydney Kamlager, California State Assembly
Balkis Awan, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Kamlager
Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of
Legislative Affairs
Mitchell Rosenberg, Legislative Assistant, Office of Legislative Affairs