August 30, 2018

Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1957 (BERMAN) as amended August 17, 2018 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports AB 1957 and requests your signature.

As electronic communications become a major mode of communication, it is essential that when it is used in the administration of public social services that the rights of applicants and recipients are protected, while at the same time providing them the opportunity to maximize electronic communication where appropriate. The use of electronic communications can be particularly significant for persons with disabilities in accessing public benefits.

AB 1957 would authorize counties to use text messaging to communicate with individuals about their CalFresh, CalWORKs, or CAPI benefits. This bill would ensure that text messaging complies with existing federal law and provides for effective communication for individuals with disabilities.
For these reasons, we support this bill and request your signature. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position on this bill.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Curtis Child
Legislative Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Marc Berman, California State Assembly
    Elizabeth Schmitt, Fellow, Office of Assembly Member Berman
    Donna Campbell, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs
    Samuel Miller, Legislative Assistant, Office of Legislative Affairs
    Kevin Aslanian, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Advocates
    Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty
    Andrew Cheyne, California Food Bank Association