



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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July 10, 2018

Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
Chair, Appropriations Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2022 (CHU) as amended June 21, 2018 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2022**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 6, 2018.

This bill would require a school or county office of education and a charter school to notify pupils and parents or guardians of pupils no less than twice during the school year how to initiate access to available pupil mental health services on campus or in the community, or both.

Untreated mental illness increases a person's risk for suicide, involuntary emergency care, homelessness, poor clinical outcomes and early death. Clinical research demonstrates that 50 percent of all mental illness begins by the age of 14, and 75 percent by the age of 24. Thus, it is critical to identify and treat youth for mental health illnesses and one of the best places to do that is in the schools.

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 Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Lenin Del Castillo, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Natasha Collins, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Honorable Kansen Chu, California State Assembly
Katelin Van Deynze, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Chu
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee
Zima Creason, Mental Health America of California