



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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April 2, 2018

Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2022 (CHU) - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member O'Donnell:

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 Assembly Education Committee on April 11, 2018.

This bill would require that every school have at least one mental health professional generally accessible to pupils on campus during school hours. The bill would require, if the mental health professional is not employed by the school, the school district, or the county office of education, the school, the school district, or the county office of education to form a community partnership with and enter into a memorandum of understanding with the entity that employs the mental health professional.

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, Assembly Education Committee
Tanya Lieberman, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Honorable Kansen Chu, California State Assembly
Katelin Van Deynze, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Chu
Zima Creason, Mental Health America of California