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July 13, 2018

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

RE: AB 2030 (LIMON) as amended May 25, 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 2030**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 6, 2018.

Longstanding state and federal law prohibit disability-based discrimination by state and local governmental entities. The same law requires that governmental entities provide reasonable modifications in policies and practices to people with disabilities to ensure that they have equal access to government services. However, as is often the case, there is not clear direction on ensuring that reasonable accommodations are made in the delivery of state and local services and benefits.

AB 2030 requires that the Department of Social Services make an inquiry into the applicant's need for an accommodation by including questions in the application on the applicant's need for an accommodation. This seemingly simple process can provide a very important process for informing applicants of their right to an accommodation and put the caseworkers on notice that an accommodation is required. It would also require the Office of Systems Integration to collaborate with county welfare

departments to include a notification in the state automated welfare system to inform the caseworker of a public assistance program applicant or recipient that the applicant or recipient has disclosed the need for an accommodation consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act or has disclosed a disability or domestic violence experience that may affect his or her eligibility for certain exemptions from, and exceptions to, CalWORKs program requirements. The bill would require the notification to be immediately visible to the caseworker upon opening the applicant's or recipient's file in the system and would require the notification to be included in any revision, modification, or update to the system made on or after January 1, 2019.

This bill provides a procedure for ensuring that state and county departments delivering CalWORKs services will deliver them equally to persons with disabilities. These procedures, of course, should not be understood as a substitute for the reasonable accommodations that are otherwise required under state and federal disability rights laws.

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,



Curtis Child
Legislative Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Monique Limon, California State Assembly
Israel Landa, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member Limon
Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Debra Cooper, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee
Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty
Kevin Aslanian, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations