May 8, 2020

Honorable Adam Gray  
Chair, Governmental Organization Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 360A  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2047 (Aguiar-Curry) as Amended – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gray:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports AB 2047, which has recently been amended to respond to the grave COVID-19 crisis by ensuring that all counties in our state incorporate plan to address the unique needs of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia in their emergency response during the next plan update.

COVID-19 has created unique challenges those living with Alzheimer’s and dementia. They depend on a network of caregiving services that have been significantly impacted by the statewide stay-at-home order, and within the broader community of individuals with dementia, individuals who live alone are particularly at risk. Based on the March 2020 Alzheimer’s Association Facts and Figures report, we know that approximately one in four individuals with cognitive impairment lives alone, leaving many without resources they depend upon.

Current state law requires counties to integrate the access and functional needs population into its emergency plan, upon the next update to these plans. However, current law does not require planning for emergency shelter-in-place orders, nor does it explicitly acknowledge the 690,000
individuals in our state living with Alzheimer’s and dementia today - a population projected to increase by 21.7% in the next five years.

AB 2047 will ensure that our counties’ emergency plans account for this vulnerable population and take consideration of the difference between sheltering in place orders and other emergency directives. 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.

Sincerely,

Sawait Seyoum
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Governmental Organization Committee