



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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March 28, 2018

Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Health Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2122 (REYES) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2122**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on April 3, 2018.

This bill requires the Department of Health Care Services to ensure that a child enrolled in Medi-Cal receives blood lead screening tests at 12 and 24 months of age, and that a child 2 to 6 years of age receives a blood lead screening test if there is no record of a previous test for that child.

Research over the past 40 years has linked lead poisoning to developmental delays, cognitive problems, and behavior issues during childhood and the teen years. Lead exposure occurs more frequently in low-income children and children of color and is an important factor in the educational achievement gap between children of different racial and income groups. Investing in lead poisoning prevention will positively affect health and educational outcomes and produce societal benefits, particularly as the regular part of testing in Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT).

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 Eloise Gomez Reyes, California State Assembly
Amer Rashid, Office of Assembly Member Reyes
Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee
Rosielyn Pulmano, Chief Consultant, Assembly Health Committee