



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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August 24, 2018

Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2132 (LEVINE) as amended August 13, 2018 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities **supports AB 2132 and requests your signature.**

This bill would authorize cities and counties to waive or reduce all building permit fees for improvements to the home of a person at least 60 years of age with a qualifying physical or mental disability that are made to accommodate that disability as defined in the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (CFEHA).

In general, home modifications promote appealing, supportive, accessible, and inclusive living environments. These are considered barrier-free, giving those with impairment increased mobility and self-sufficiency. Modifications are often structural, including wider door openings, lowered cabinetry, wheelchair-friendly appliance loading levels, ramps, chair lifts, elevators and wheelchair friendly showers. Home modifications can also include minor adaptations, like grip-friendly doors, knobs, switches, flooring, lighting, safety and security features. AB 2132 concerns those modifications that require a building permit.

While modifications are perhaps more often intended to accommodate physical disabilities, there can also be a need for modifications to accommodate individuals with psychological or intellectual disabilities. For example, as we have heard from our clients, an individual with major or mild neurocognitive disorder due to Alzheimer's disease or traumatic brain injury, both mental impairments within DSM 5, may need barrier modifications to accommodate the disability such as fences, gates, or room restructuring to protect the individual with the disability. Likewise, individuals with developmental coordination disorder, also a mental impairment within DSM 5, which can be marked by falling, seizures, or other risks that can be minimized with accommodating modifications such as removal of steps, flooring, reconfiguring kitchens or bathrooms. Just as with modification for physical disabilities, the types of potential needed modifications can be quite extensive.

For many seniors with physical and mental disabilities, including the growing number of those with neurocognitive disorders and living on fixed incomes, the building permit fees for making accommodations may impose a financial burden and result in their inability to make the accommodations.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill and requests your signature. We appreciate the author bringing it forward. 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 Marc Levine, California State Assembly
Diego Lopez, Office Assistant, Office of Assembly Member Levine
Graciela Castillo-Krings, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of
Legislative Affairs
Nathan Bentham, Legislative Assistant, Office of Legislative Affairs