



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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April 2, 2018

Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Chair, Local Government Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2132 (LEVINE) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2132**. This bill is scheduled in the Assembly Local Government Committee on April 11, 2018.

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 disability that are made to accommodate that disability.

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.

For many seniors with disabilities 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. This bill will alleviate part of the burden of making accommodations for these persons with disabilities.

Last year, AB 330 (Berryhill) provided the authority to waive building permit fees for veterans with disabilities. This bill makes the logical extension to persons over 60 with disabilities.

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 Marc Levine, California State Assembly
Diego Lopez, Office Assistant, Office of Assembly Member Levine
Honorable Members, Assembly Local Government Committee
Debbie Michel, Chief Consultant, Assembly Local Government
Committee
Puja Navaney, Fellow, Assembly Local Government Committee