



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
INFORMATION UNIT**

1831 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-4114
Tel: (916) 504-5800
TTY: (800) 719-5798
Intake Line: (800) 776-5746
Fax: (916) 504-5807
www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org

July 17, 2018

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

RE: AB 2161 (CHIU) as amended June 28, 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 2161**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 6, 2018.

This bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to create a database to compile and centralize data from state and local agencies on California's homeless population and the services they may use. Importantly, this bill recognizes the importance of compiling data regarding those individuals that are homeless and have a disability so that services and housing may be better targeted to their needs while protecting their privacy.

It is essential that during this housing crisis and increased homelessness evidence-based strategies be employed to target the needs and effectiveness of programs and services, including the creation of additional housing and services. Currently there are different well-intentioned state and local strategies being proposed and employed but miss the mark because there is a lack of data and information to better inform the policy and strategies. A reliable state database will significantly assist new

strategies.

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 David Chiu, California State Assembly
Samantha Huynh, Fellow, Office of Assembly Member Chiu
Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Mark McKenzie, Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Swenson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Sharon Rapport, Associate Director, Corporation for Supportive Housing
Chris Martin, Housing California