



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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June 19, 2018

Honorable Jim Beall
Chair, Transportation and Housing Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2161 (CHIU) as amended May 25, 2018 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Beall:

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 Transportation and Housing Committee on June 26, 2018.

This bill establishes 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 Transportation and Housing Committee
Jeffery Song, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
Sharon Rapport, Associate Director, Corporation for Supportive
Housing
Chris Martin, Housing California