

LEGISLATION & PUBLIC INFORMATION UNIT

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California's protection & advocacy system

March 7, 2017

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher California State Assembly Capitol Building, Room 2114 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 216 (GONZALEZ FLETCHER) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports AB 216. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee on March 22, 2017.

This bill would clarify that the elections official is required to deliver to each qualified applicant a prepaid identification envelope for the return of the vote by mail ballot.

Many people with disabilities have difficulty getting to a post office when the ballot requires additional postage. Often, people with disabilities or seniors are on fixed incomes, with few resources to purchase stamps or travel to a post office or other location for stamps. This bill will help ensure people with disabilities can vote and have their voices heard.

For these reasons, we support this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position on this bill.

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Very truly yours,

Margaret Johnson, Esq. Advocacy Director Disability Rights California

cc: Laurel Brodzinsky, Legislative Assistant, Office of Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher Honorable Chair and Members, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee Bish Paul, Fellow, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee