



**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.disabilityrightsca.org](http://www.disabilityrightsca.org)

April 17, 2018

Honorable Blanca Rubio  
Chair, Human Services Committee  
California State Assembly  
Capitol Building, Room 5175  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2171 (FRAZIER) as amended April 16, 2018 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2171**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Human Services Committee on April 24, 2018.

The overall intent of AB 2171 is to increase opportunities so that individuals with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) can prepare for and engage in competitive integrated employment (CIE).

Over the last few years, California adopted policies to advance competitive integrated employment options for individuals with developmental disabilities, including The Employment First Policy, adopted in 2013, and the California Competitive Integrated Employment: Blueprint for Change, which was adopted in May 2017. The Blueprint is a plan to implement new and existing federal and state policies that impact competitive integrated employment.

Amendments taken in the Assembly Education Committee encourage the Department of Education (DOE) to work with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Department of Rehabilitation

(DOR) to implement the Blueprint and take further steps to advance CIE. To provide clarity and ensure progress with implementing the Employment First Policy and the Blueprint, DRC suggests the following amendments:

- 1) Require consultation with key stakeholders, including DRC, and annual legislative reporting as a way of ensuring transparency and accountability.
- 2) Since the bill impacts the Department of Developmental Services, the Department of Education, and the Department of Rehabilitation, we also encourage placement of language applicable to all three agencies in the Government Code.

AB 2171 is a step forward to promote competitive integrated employment. We look forward to working with the sponsors and committee to provide technical assistance to strengthen the measure.

Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,



Evelyn Abouhassan  
Senior Legislative Advocate  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Jim Frazier, California State Assembly  
Amber Garcia, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Frazier  
Honorable Members, Assembly Human Services Committee  
Daphne Hunt, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services Committee  
Kelsy Castillo, Senior Consultant, Assembly Human Services Committee  
Irene Frausto, Committee Secretary, Assembly Human Services Committee  
Alex Khan, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee