



**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)

June 25, 2018

Honorable Scott Wiener  
Chair, Human Services Committee  
California State Senate  
Capitol Building, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2171 (FRAZIER) as amended May 25, 2018 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Wiener:

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 Senate Human Services Committee on June 26, 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).

AB 2171 does this by requiring the Department of Developmental Services (via the regional centers), the Department of Education, and the Department of Rehabilitation to coordinate and collaborate to advance individual opportunities for competitive integrated employment.

Among other provisions, AB 2171 expands the required contents of an individualized education program (IEP) for students who are at least 16 years of age, to include information on how the local educational agency (LEA) will support the student in obtaining or retaining competitive integrated employment.

The measure also requires the Department of Education and the Department of Rehabilitation to adopt the Employment First Policy; and further to specify in their respective service plans how they will support the student in obtaining or retaining competitive integrated employment.

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. We appreciate recent amendments to the measure that require consultation with key stakeholders and annual legislative reporting as a way of ensuring transparency and accountability.

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, Senate Human Services Committee  
Marisa Shea, Principal Consultant, Senate Human Services  
Committee  
Daphne Hunt, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services  
Committee  
Kelsy Castillo, Senior Consultant, Assembly Human Services  
Committee  
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee