



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC  
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March 7, 2018

Honorable Autumn Burke  
Chair, Revenue and Taxation Committee  
California State Assembly  
Capitol Building, Room 5150  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2253 (IRWIN) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Burke:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2253**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee on March 19, 2018.

California recently adopted the Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014, which allows certain individuals with disabilities to accumulate savings without losing their eligibility for federally funded means tested SSI, Medicaid and other government benefit programs. The money in an ABLE account can be used to pay for a broad range of “qualified disability expenses” such as medical bills, assistive technology, housing modifications, education related expenses, etc.

AB 2253 would repeal the \$100,000 limitation on moneys in, contributions to, and distributions for qualified disability expenses from an ABLE account, for purposes of determining eligibility for a state only funded or local only funded means-tested program.

Costs and service needs for people with disabilities can be extensive. The elimination of the cap for state or local means-tested programs will allow

people with disabilities to save enough money for their future disability related costs so they can live independently without jeopardizing their benefit eligibility for needed state only funded or local only funded means-tested programs.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Evelyn M. Abouhassan".

Evelyn Abouhassan  
Senior Legislative Advocate  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Jacqui Irwin, California State Assembly  
Lucia Saldivar, Fellow, Office of Assembly Member Irwin  
Honorable Members, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee  
Carlos Anguiano, Principal Consultant, Assembly Revenue and  
Taxation Committee  
Sue Highland, Committee Secretary, Assembly Revenue and  
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