



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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April 30, 2018

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

RE: AB 2291 (CHIU) as amended April 23, 2018 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2291**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 2, 2018.

As amended, AB 2291 requires local educational agencies to adopt, on or before December 31, 2019, procedures for preventing acts of bullying. The bill also requires the Department of Education to post, on its Internet Web site, the online training module developed by the department and an annually updated list of other available online training modules relating to bullying or bullying prevention. Pursuant to the current version of the measure, a school operated by a school district or county office of education and a charter school must annually provide the online training module to certificated school site employees and all other school site employees who have regular interaction with pupils.

Often, students with disabilities enter the educational environment and face bullying, harassment, and mistreatment. This measure is a positive step forward. It holds schools accountable, and ensures that they are safe for all students. Finally, it provides educators and other school staff with the tools

to ensure that all students, including students with disabilities, can learn without fear of harassment, discrimination, or intimidation.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Evelyn M. Abouhassan".

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable David Chiu, California State Assembly
Kevin Hefner, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Chiu
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Natasha Collins, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations
Committee
Robert Becker, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee