



**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)

July 11, 2018

Honorable Anthony Portantino  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
California State Senate  
Capitol Building, Room 3086  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2333 (WOOD) as amended July 2, 2018 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Portantino:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2333**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 6, 2018.

This bill recognizes, unfortunately through recent experience in California, that natural disasters can leave those who must deal with them, both as they are occurring and in their aftermath, with lasting traumatic effects. By establishing a behavioral health deputy director within the Office of Emergency Services the state can be better prepared to deal with these traumatic impacts and, importantly, plan for the known behavioral impacts that affect impacted communities. We applaud the author for recognizing the often-unrecognized behavioral health impacts on individuals and communities and the need to prepare for them.

While, as the Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis notes, there are ongoing staffing costs, those costs for a single position are de minimis when compared to the important services that the position can provide to assist persons who are victims of disasters with their mental health needs.

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.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Child". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Curtis" and last name "Child" clearly distinguishable.

Curtis Child  
Legislative Director  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Jim Wood, California State Assembly  
Paula Villescaz, Principal Consultant, Assembly Health Committee  
Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Samantha Lui, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee  
Adrienne Shilton, Steinberg Institute