

LEGISLATION & PUBLIC INFORMATION UNIT

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California's protection & advocacy system

August 24, 2018

Honorable Jerry Brown Governor of California Capitol Building, 1st Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2413 (CHIU) as amended June 4, 2018 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2413 and requests your signature.**

AB 2413, the Right to a Safe Home Act, is an opportunity to protect survivors of various crimes and trauma, and address California's current homelessness crisis by keeping individuals and families in their homes. Unfortunately, current state law does not go far enough in protecting individuals who find a need to call for police or emergency assistance from facing negative housing consequences, including eviction. This puts individuals and families in an impossible bind: ask for help and face eviction or continue to sustain harm and keep your home.

The main goal behind AB 2413 is to make sure that no Californian has to choose between calling for emergency assistance and losing their housing, through no fault of their own. AB 2413 also seeks to prevent housing providers from being forced either to face penalties or to evict their tenants who have done nothing wrong. Furthermore, the bill improves existing eviction protections for survivors of domestic violence and other forms of abuse.

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The protections in AB 2413 will provide greater safety for individuals and families and protect and enhance their housing rights by: 1) protecting a broader group of individuals who may need to call for police or emergency assistance, including victims of crime and individuals in an emergency; 2) providing an affirmative defense in eviction actions for tenants, residents, and occupants penalized for obtaining police or emergency assistance; and 3) preempting local ordinances to the contrary. AB 2413 makes important gains in ensuring that individuals who need police or emergency services to maintain their safety are not evicted from their homes.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill and requests your signature. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Very truly yours,

Curtis Child Legislative Director Disability Rights California

 cc: Honorable David Chiu, California State Assembly Riana King, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Chiu Shamus Roller, National Housing Law Project Daniel Seeman, Deputy Legislative Assistant, Office of Legislative Affairs
Daniel Gutierrez, Assistant Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs