



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
INFORMATION UNIT**

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April 18, 2018

Honorable Marc Berman
Chair, Elections and Redistricting Committee
California State Assembly
1020 N St. #365
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2540 (MULLIN) As proposed to be amended April 25, 2018 –
SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2540 as proposed to be amended.** This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee on April 25, 2018.

Existing law, the California Voter's Choice Act, authorizes certain counties to conduct any election, after a specified date, as an all mailed ballot election if certain conditions are satisfied, including conditions related to ballot dropoff locations, vote centers, and plans for the administration of all mailed ballot elections. With certain exceptions, that state owned buildings, parking lots, and other facilities be made available free of charge for use as polling places. This bill would extend this requirement to vote centers.

AB 2540 authorizes school buildings or other public buildings to be used as vote centers beginning up to ten days before the election and continuing through election day. As proposed to be amended, AB 2540 requires that any public building, including, but not limited to, a building operated by a school district, that is used as a polling place or a vote center must comply with the accessibility requirements in the federal Americans with Disabilities

Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.), the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.), and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

Disability Rights California is pleased that the author agreed to take this amendment. With these amendments, which we understand will be adopted in the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee, we support the bill. This amendment clarifies existing law and ensures that access requirements are met so that individuals with disabilities can fully, equally, and independently participate in elections.

Disability Rights California thanks the author for working with us on this very important issue. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position on this bill.

Sincerely,

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

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Kevin Mullin, California State Assembly
Laura Fitzgerald, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Mullin
Honorable Members, Assembly Elections and Redistricting
Committee
Nichole Becker, Principal Consultant, Assembly Elections and
Redistricting Committee
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee