



**LEGISLATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS 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

February 27, 2019

Honorable Jim Frazier
Chair, Transportation Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 3091
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 259 (CALDERON) as introduced January 23, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Frazier:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 259**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Transportation Committee on March 11, 2019.

This bill would establish the Voluntary Deaf or Hard of Hearing Notification Program. The program would voluntarily allow a person to, at the time of registration of a vehicle, indicate the driver may be deaf or hard of hearing and further allow a peace officer to access this information. The department would be prohibited from indicating, in any manner, the information provided on a driver's license, certificate of ownership, registration card, or license plate.

Some people who are deaf fear being targeted if everyone knows they are deaf. However, some people who are deaf or hard of hearing want a peace officer to know they are deaf. This bill will provide the information to peace officers without displaying the information to the public. This program is also voluntary, allowing people the choice of providing the information.

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 Ian Calderon, California State Assembly
Deanna Jarquin, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member
Calderon
Honorable Members, Assembly Transportation Committee
David Sforza, Consultant, Assembly Transportation Committee
Daniel Ballon, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee