



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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April 16, 2018

Honorable Blanca Rubio
Chair, Human Services Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 5175
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2605 (GIPSON) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2605**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Human Services Committee on April 24, 2018.

AB 2605 places a three-year moratorium on non-mandated calls to law enforcement. Among other provisions, the measure requires: 1) a group home, temporary shelter care facility, transitional shelter care facility, or short-term residential therapeutic program, for children, to contact law enforcement for conduct of a child when there is an emergency situation that poses a real and immediate physical threat to a child or other person that requires law enforcement intervention to mitigate the threat; 2) or when the facility or a facility employee is required by law to report an incident to law enforcement, including mandated reporting of child abuse; or 3) if the child is missing or has run away. The bill also requires a facility covered by the bill to include, within its emergency intervention plans, policies and procedures for behavior management and law enforcement contact.


DRC supports this legislation as it focuses on the development of policies and procedures for behavior management rather than reliance on law

enforcement intervention to discipline challenging behaviors of foster youth in the facility.

Often times, children in foster care have a history of trauma and abuse. Some youth in foster care have disabilities where the challenging behavior is a manifestation of their disability. For children with disabilities, the better approach should focus on proper behavior management techniques, such as positive interventions to address disability-related behaviors rather than calling the police. This measure seeks appropriate policy shift to implement systemic change and provide guidance so that there can be less reliance on law enforcement to manage behavioral issues in foster care facilities, which is often counterproductive and inappropriate.

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.

Sincerely,

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

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Mike Gipson, California State Assembly
Deepen Gagneja, Caucus Consultant, Office of Assembly Member Gipson
Honorable Members, Assembly Human Services Committee
Kelsy Castillo, Senior Consultant, Assembly Human Services Committee
Irene Frausto, Committee Secretary, Assembly Human Services Committee
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