



**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)

---

June 21, 2018

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

**RE: AB 2605 (GIPSON) as amended April 30, 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 2605**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 25, 2018.

Among other provisions, AB 2605 requires group homes, short-term residential therapeutic program, transitional shelter care facilities or temporary shelter care facilities, to develop protocols dictating the instances in which law enforcement may be contacted in response to the behavior of a youth residing at the facility. The measure requires the protocols to do at least all of the following: 1) employ trauma-informed and evidence-based de-escalation and intervention techniques when staff responds to a youth's behavior; 2) require staff to undergo annual training on the facility's protocols; 3) specify that contacting law enforcement is only used as a last resort once all other de-escalation and intervention techniques have been exhausted, and only upon approval of a staff supervisor; and 4) address contacting law enforcement in an emergency situation if there is an immediate risk of serious harm to a child or others. Finally, the bill requires these facilities to include the protocols developed in its emergency intervention plan and its plan of operation.

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 through the development of specific protocols including protocols that advance trauma-informed evidenced-based de-escalation and intervention techniques. The protocols will also provide more clarity and dictate the instances in which law enforcement may be contacted in response to a youth's behavior. With additional clarity, there can be less reliance on law enforcement to manage behavioral issues in these 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, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Debra Cooper, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee