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March 15, 2018

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

RE: AB 2623 (HOLDEN) – 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 2623**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Human Services Committee on April 10, 2018.

AB 2623 extends authority to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and regional centers to adjust the rates of providers to comply with minimum wage levels enacted in the local jurisdictions where they employ workers to meet consumer service needs under the Lanterman Act. Without an increase to reimbursement rates to meet mandates, many service providers may shut their doors, resulting in a shortage of community-based services and supports.

Disability Rights California has been a strong supporter of ensuring wage equity in the DDS system. Adjusting rates to meet the requirements of local mandates will strengthen the community-based system that is now the safety net for regional consumers. While we make these rate adjustments to strengthen our community system in the short term, DRC encourages that as we move forward towards compliance with the Home and Community Based Regulations (HCBS), we also must ensure that these

rate adjustments are for allowable costs for integrated programs and services consistent with the HCBS rules.

Please contact me if you have any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the last name.

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Chris Holden, California State Assembly
Elle Hoxworth, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Holden
Honorable Members, Assembly Human Services Committee
Daphne Hunt, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services
Committee
Irene Frausto, Committee Secretary, Assembly Human Services
Committee