



**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)

April 18, 2018

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

**RE: AB 2742 (ALLEN) – OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **opposes AB 2742**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee on April 25, 2018.

AB 2742 requires a voter to provide photographic identification at the polling place before receiving a ballot. The bill would specify the forms of photographic identification that are acceptable and authorizes the use of a photographic identification that has been expired for less than one year. The bill would require a precinct board to provide a voter who is unable to provide an acceptable form of photographic identification, and would require a voter who is provided a provisional ballot for this reason, to present photographic identification to the elections official in order to have his or her provisional ballot counted. AB 2742 would also require that a voter be provided a free registered voter identification card that contains a photograph of the voter if the voter does not have an acceptable form of photographic identification.

AB 2742 unnecessarily restricts voter participation. Many voters with disabilities do not have or cannot afford a driver's license or a passport, or

the underlying documents necessary to obtain such identification. Further, transportation to obtain such documents can be challenging and expensive.

A November 2006 survey found that 11% of United States citizens do not have government-issued photo identification (Brennan Center for Justice, *Citizens without Proof: A Survey of Americans' Possession of Documentary Proof of Citizenship and Photo Identification* (New York: Brennan Center for Justice, 2006), available at [http://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/d/download\\_file\\_39242.pdf](http://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/d/download_file_39242.pdf)).

Although AB 2742 provides for the provision of a free identification card, the legislation does not delineate what documentation is necessary to obtain this free identification, and whether the costs associated with obtaining this documentation will be covered.

Voter identification laws like AB 2742 are a solution in search of a problem. There is no evidence that the type of fraud this measure's photo identification requirement purports to address—voters who misrepresent their identity—is anything but an anomaly. Voter identification laws also waste precious taxpayer dollars. States incur sizeable costs when implementing voter identification laws, including the cost of educating the public, training poll workers, and providing identification to voters.

Not only are voter identification laws expensive and unnecessary, they unfairly depress voter participation. Strict photo identification voting laws reduce election turnouts, which can translate into tens of thousands of votes lost in a single state.

For these reasons, DRC opposes 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 black ink that reads "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Evelyn" and the last name "Abouhassan" clearly legible.

Evelyn Abouhassan  
Senior Legislative Advocate  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Travis Allen, California State Assembly  
Stephanie Freedman, Chief of Staff, Office of Assembly Member  
Allen  
Honorable Members, Assembly Elections and Redistricting  
Committee  
Nichole Becker, Principal Consultant, Assembly Elections and  
Redistricting Committee