Disability Rights California

California's protection & advocacy system

April 4, 2018

Honorable David Chiu
Chair, Housing and Community Development Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4112
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2797 (BLOOM) - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Chiu:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2797.** This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee on April 11, 2018.

This bill corrects a recent California Court of Appeal decision that undermines the Density Bonus Law in the Mello Act in cities within the Coastal Zone. Because of that decision, residential developments within the Coastal Zone do not need to comply with the Mello Act requirements. Developers must generally replace affordable housing units in the Coastal Zone when they are demolished and include affordable units in new housing developments.

While in the midst of the housing crises in California, it is critical that affordable housing must be a part of addressing the housing shortage. For that reason, AB 2797 clarifies that the Mello Act requirements apply within the Coastal Zone and that affordable housing must be preserved and produced as it is otherwise in areas throughout the state.

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,

Curtis Child
Legislative Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Housing and Community
       Development Committee
       Rebecca Rabovsky, Consultant, Assembly Housing and Community
       Development Committee
       Honorable Richard Bloom, California State Assembly
       Guy Strahl, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member Bloom