



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
INFORMATION UNIT**

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June 5, 2018

Honorable Henry Stern
Chair, Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 3070
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2835 (CALDERON) as introduced – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Stern:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2835**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee on June 6, 2018.

Existing law defines a "ballot" for election law purposes to include an electronic touchscreen upon which appears the names of candidates and ballot titles of measures to be voted on by touching the designated area of the screen for systems that do not contain a paper ballot.

Among other provisions, AB 2835 expands the electronic touchscreen systems that qualify as ballots. The measure eliminates the requirement that the systems not contain paper ballots if the votes are tabulated manually or by optical scanning equipment.

DRC supports this measure. Many individuals with sensory disabilities use accessible systems to vote privately and independently. This bill is good public policy because it promotes accessibility by qualifying touchscreen systems as ballots. It also simplifies the process and makes it easier so

that elections officials do not have to re-mark ballots from accessible voting systems. This ensures privacy for the voter and eliminates the possibility of inaccuracies that can occur during the re-marking process.

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 that reads "Evelyn M. Abouhassan".

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Ian Calderon, California State Assembly
Dylan Hoffman, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member
Calderon
Honorable Members, Senate Elections and Constitutional
Amendments Committee
Darren Chesin, Chief Consultant, Senate Elections and Constitutional
Amendments Committee
Cory Botts, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee