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March 28, 2018

Honorable Marc Berman  
Chair, Elections and Redistricting Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6011  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2883 (HARPER) – SUPPORT IF AMENDED**

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2883 if amended**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee on April 11, 2018.

Current law permits a vote by mail voter who is unable to return his or her ballot to designate another person to return the ballot. AB 2883 further requires the designated person to offer to give a receipt to the voter when the designated person receives the ballot, and to provide a receipt to the voter upon request.

The receipt form, prescribed by the Secretary of State must include: 1) the name and address of the person designated; 2) the telephone number of the designated person; 3) the driver's license or California identification card number of the designated person; 4) the date and time the ballot was received by the designated person from the voter; 5) the name of the political party, candidate, or committee for which the designated person is acting as an actual or implied agent; and 6) a statement that the designated person must return the ballot to the elections official who issued the ballot, to the precinct board at a polling place or vote center within the state, or to

a vote by mail ballot drop-off location within the state that is provided no later than two days after receiving the ballot from the voter or before the close of the polls on election day, whichever time period is shorter.

Often times, persons with disabilities who are unable to return their own ballots because of disability-related reasons, designate another person to return their ballot for them. While we appreciate the intent of the legislation to ensure accountability and provide proof that the ballot was returned, Disability Rights California is concerned that the detailed information required in the receipt might discourage a person's disability support network, such as a caregiver, from acting as a designee to turn in the ballot.

We ask that the bill be amended to exempt family members, caregivers, or others in the disability support network from providing the details on the receipt form. The exception will ensure that individuals with disabilities have the supports necessary to fully participate and have access to the election process.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions 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 Members, Assembly Elections and Redistricting  
Committee  
Nichole Becker, Principal Consultant, Assembly Elections and  
Redistricting Committee  
Honorable Matthew Harper, California State Assembly  
Madeleine Cooper, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member  
Harper