

LEGISLATION & PUBLIC INFORMATION UNIT

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California's protection & advocacy system

August 20, 2018

Honorable Jerry Brown Governor of California Capitol Building, 1st Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 306 (GONZALEZ FLETCHER) as amended June 20, 2018 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 306 and requests your signature.**

AB 306 requires a person designated to return a voter's vote by mail ballot no later than three days after receiving it from the voter or before the close of the polls on Election Day, whichever time is shorter. AB 306 also prohibits disqualifying a ballot from being counted solely because it was returned more than three days after the designated person received it from the voter, provided that the ballot is returned by the designated person before the close of polls on Election Day.

AB 306 provides reassurance to voters who designate someone to turn in their completed mail ballot for them that their ballot will be timely received. 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. Disability Rights California supports this measure as it ensures, in these circumstances, that voters with disabilities will be able to fully participate in the electoral process and have their ballot counted when they give their ballot to a designee.

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For these reasons, DRC supports this bill and requests your signature. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Evelyn M. Wonhaven

Evelyn Abouhassan Senior Legislative Advocate Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher, California State Assembly Laurel Brodzinsky, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher Melinda McClain Grant, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs Nathan Bentham, Legislative Assistant, Office of Legislative Affairs