



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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May 4, 2018

Honorable Henry Stern
Chair, Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 2203
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 306 (Gonzalez Fletcher) – 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 306**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee on May 15, 2018.

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

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". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Elections and Constitutional
Amendments Committee
Scott Matsumoto, Consultant, Senate Elections and Constitutional
Amendments Committee
Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher, California State Assembly
Laurel Brodzinsky, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member
Gonzalez Fletcher