



**LEGISLATION AND
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June 18, 2019

Honorable Melissa Hurtado
Chair, Human Services Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 3070
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 307 (Reyes) as amended May 16, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hurtado:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 307**. This bill is scheduled for hearing before the Senate Human Services Committee on June 24, 2019.

This bill would require the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to develop and administer a grant program to support young people experiencing homelessness by preventing or reducing substance use disorders among homeless youth by providing services in the most efficient and effective way, including housing, and reducing the exposure to trauma as a result of homelessness that has been shown to be a precursor to substance use disorders. The program would be funded by a combination of funds provided to the council by the State Department of Health Care Services from the Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment Account, funds appropriated by the Legislature, and gifts and donations made to the council for that purpose.

AB 307 appropriately directs resources in a targeted manner to help reduce the incidences of homelessness and substance abuse among youth. It provides a delivery structure that utilizes private non-profit agencies with

demonstrated success in delivering services to homeless youth employing a continuum of care and affording a wide array of supportive services. The programs offered in this bill will serve to provide the necessary services to significantly address homelessness and provide future opportunities for youth.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Child". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Curtis" and last name "Child" clearly distinguishable.

Curtis Child
Legislative Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Human Services Committee
Taryn Smith, Chief Consultant, Senate Human Services Committee
Daphne Hunt, Consultant, Assembly Human Services Committee
The Honorable Eloise Gomez Reyes, California State Assembly
Amer Rashid, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Reyes
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee