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March 19, 2019

Honorable Jim Wood, Chair
Assembly Health Committee
Capitol Building, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 316 (Ramos) as introduced January 30, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 316**. This bill is scheduled for hearing before Assembly Health committee on March 26, 2019.

AB 316 is an extremely important bill for people with disabilities. By providing an adjustment to supplement the payment a treating provider receives, the bill will make dental care more accessible. The bill's value begins with the definition of "special dental care needs." AB 316 recognizes that you cannot take a cookie-cutter approach to the instances when a dental appointment will require more time than anticipated.

For example, a person with a developmental disability such as autism may have sensory challenges associated with necessary examination and treatment procedures. A person with ambulatory or other mobility issues may need assistance in being able to sit or recline in a way that is comfortable rather than frightening. Patients with anxiety may experience panic attacks, tactile discomfort, or difficulty remaining seated in the dental chair.

If a patient has dental diagnoses that require complicated and invasive treatment, there could be different approaches individualized to the needs of the patient. This may include multiple visits where usually one will suffice; longer visits where shorter visits are typically sufficient; additional staff, and greater attention to mental and emotional comfort.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Deb Roth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deb Roth
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee
Judith Babcock, Senior Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Honorable James Ramos, California State Assembly
John Nam, Chief of Staff, Office of Assembly Member Ramos
Alex Khan, Consultant, Republican Caucus