



**LEGISLATION AND
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September 10, 2019

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 318 (CHU) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 318 and requests your signature.**

This bill would require the field testing of all beneficiary materials, and informing materials that are translated into threshold languages and released by the Department of Health Care Services and managed care plans to ensure accuracy, cultural appropriateness, and readability. It would also require the department to consult with stakeholders to identify at least 10 documents released by the department to be revised by a readability expert and provide the department with specific recommendations for revising the selected documents to improve the readability of the documents.

AB 318 addresses one of the most critical barriers to accessing Medi-Cal benefits: language accessibility in program notices. The bill will ensure that the most critical informing documents be subject to review and testing by a focus group, or another form of review, involving native speakers of the applicable language or community-based organizations with an understanding of the linguistic needs of the targeted population. Properly translated culturally appropriate materials will improve access to Medi-Cal

benefits and therefore improve health outcomes.

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.

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 Kansen Chu, California State Assembly
Linda Vo, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Chu
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs
Sam Miller, Assistant Legislative Deputy, Office of Legislative Affairs