



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC  
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April 2, 2018

Honorable Blanca Rubio  
Chair, Human Services Committee  
California State Assembly  
Capitol Building, Room 5175  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 3200 (KALRA) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 3200**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Human Services Committee on April 10, 2018.

The Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Program (SSI/SSP) provides cash grants to low-income aged, blind and disabled individuals. Over 900,000 of the 1.2 million recipients in California are blind and disabled.

Unfortunately, the Governor's proposed budget for FY 2018-19 does not include an increase to the SSI/SSP grant beyond the federally provided COLA, which the LAO estimates will increase SSI/SSP by \$13 for individuals and \$20 for couples in FY 2018-19. The current maximum SSI/SSP grant for an individual in 2018 is \$911 per month. Since 2000-01 the state has not provided the annual state COLA for grants in most years. In 2009, legislation was enacted that ended the automatic state-funded COLA for grants. Only in 2016-17 were the grants increased and only by 2.6 percent, about a \$4 increase for an individual grant. Currently, the SSI grant amount for individuals remains below the federal poverty level (FPL).


The Legislative Analyst's Office has found that if the 2008-09 maximum grant levels for individuals and couples had increased annually with inflation, they would be roughly \$240 and \$480 higher than projected 2018-19 levels, respectively.

The state has made historic progress in reversing the Great Recession deficits, but this has come at the expense of maintaining rock bottom SSI/SSP grants that are forcing hunger, homelessness and inhumane hardship on 1.3 million of our neighbors. In fact, state spending is 40% lower than in 2007-08 despite a 2 percent caseload increase. Especially given the health of our reserves and revenues, there is simply no excuse not to make SSI/SSP a priority in the 2018-19 Budget.

AB 3200 would reinstate the COLA beginning January 1 of the 2019 calendar year. It would also require a maximum aid payment provided to an individual or a married couple that does not equal or exceed 100% of the 2018 FPL to be increased to an amount that equals 100% of the FPL. While the FPL is hardly the appropriate measure by which California should measure for caring for its aged, blind and disabled members of the community, this bill would make important progress toward a benefit that could exceed the poverty level.

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,



Curtis Child  
Legislative Director  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Ash Kalra, California State Assembly  
Barry Brewer, Chief Consultant, Assembly Aging and Long-Term  
Care Committee  
Honorable Members, Assembly Human Services Committee  
Daphne Hunt, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services  
Committee