



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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June 11, 2018

Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Education Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 5072
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 3223 (GRAYSON) as amended May 16, 2018 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Allen:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 3223**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Education Committee on June 13, 2018.

Existing law requires local educational agencies to provide opportunities for braille instruction for pupils who may be expected to have a need for braille as a reading medium. Existing law defines braille for these purposes as the system of reading and writing through touch, commonly known as "Standard English Braille, American Edition."

AB 3223 defines braille as the system of reading and writing through touch, commonly known as Unified English Braille. AB 3223 reflects a change in the system of braille used in California and nationally for teaching literary braille from Standard English Braille to Unified English Braille. The bill, as amended in the Assembly Education Committee, ensures the use of the Nemeth Code for teaching braille mathematics and science, as well as the use of Music Braille Code, or the use of International Phonetic Alphabet

Braille Code. Nemeth Code is a less complex system and works well for teaching mathematics and science to students who are blind.

Disability Rights California appreciates that the current language in the measure ensures that this bill does not have the unintended consequence of impeding the ability of students who are blind to learn mathematics or science by requiring the use of a system that is difficult to comprehend.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Evelyn M. Abouhassan".

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Timothy Grayson, California State Assembly
Cara Chang, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Grayson
Honorable Members, Senate Education Committee
Jennifer Chase, Senior Policy Consultant, Senate Education
Committee
Tanya Lieberman, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Education
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Roger Mackensen, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Committee