



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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May 2, 2018

Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 3223 (GRAYSON) as introduced – SUPPORT AS PROPOSED
TO BE AMENDED**

Dear Assembly Member O'Donnell:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports as proposed to be amended AB 3223**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Education Committee on May 9, 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. Proposed amendments, among other things, ensures the use of the Nemeth Code for teaching braille mathematics. Nemeth Code is a less complex system and has works well for teaching mathematics to students who are blind.

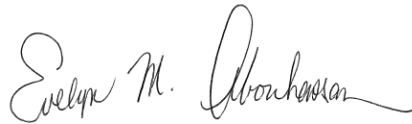
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Disability Rights California appreciates the adoption of the amendments to ensure that this bill does not have the unintended consequence of impeding the ability of students who are blind to learn mathematics by requiring the use of a system that is difficult to comprehend.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill as proposed to be amended. 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, Assembly Education Committee
Tanya Lieberman, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Robert Becker, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee