June 13, 2019

Honorable Jerry Hill
Chair, Labor, Public Employment and Retirement
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 333 (Eggman) as amended May 17, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hill:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports AB 333. This bill is scheduled for hearing before Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee on June 19, 2019.

This bill would extend whistleblower and non-retaliation protections in current law to county patients' rights advocates appointed or under contract to provide services relating to mental health advocacy, and it would apply the protections against local contracting agencies. Patients’ rights advocates should have protections in performing their advocacy work to ensure that those individuals that they serve are protected. They should not be subject to retaliation for uncovering issues within their purview.

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 Members, Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee  
Gideon Baum, Consultant, Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee  
Honorable Susan Eggman, California State Assembly  
Anna Billy, Legislative Assistant, Office of Assembly Member Eggman  
Scott Seekatz, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee