



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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April 10, 2017

Honorable Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
Chair, Revenue and Taxation Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2176
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 384 (IRWIN) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas:

Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports AB 384. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee on April 17, 2017.

The Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 (ABLE Act), encourages and assists individuals and families to save private funds in a tax advantaged savings account for the purpose of supporting persons with disabilities to maintain their health, independence, and quality of life by excluding from gross income distributions used for qualified disability expenses by a beneficiary of a qualified ABLE program. In 2015, the state established a qualified ABLE program and the Qualified ABLE Fund for purposes of implementing the federal ABLE Act. The language from this bill allowed the establishment of an ABLE account for residents of California.

AB 384 would expand the residency requirement from a resident of California to a resident of the United States. Considering this is a federal program that has been established in California, it is unnecessary for someone who is qualified for an ABLE account and wants to participate to

be a resident of California. The California residency requirement is over limiting and counters the goal of encouraging program participation. AB 384 would simplify California's residency requirements for the ABLE program and the Qualified ABLE Fund, thereby making it easier for people with disabilities to set up an account.

For these reasons, we support this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position on this bill.

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 Jacqui Irwin, California State Assembly
Jessica Jin, Fellow, Office of Assembly Member Irwin
Honorable Members, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee
Carlos Anguiano, Policy Consultant, Assembly Revenue and
Taxation Committee