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July 12, 2019

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 392 (WEBER) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 392 and requests your signature.**

Research shows that individuals with disabilities are at a severely increased risk of dying at the hands of police; it is estimated that individuals with disabilities comprise one-third to one-half of all fatal encounters with law enforcement. In 2017, officers killed 172 people in California, only half of whom had guns. Police kill more people in California than in any other state – and at a rate 37% higher than the national average per capita. As well as individuals with disabilities, these tragedies disproportionately impact communities of color, as California police kill unarmed young black and Latino men at significantly higher rates than they do white men. Community trust and cooperation with law enforcement is undermined when force is used unnecessarily and disproportionately. Relatively, unnecessary escalation puts law enforcement officers at a greater risk of bodily and mental harm.


Under current law, police can use deadly force whenever an “objectively reasonable” officer would have done so under the same circumstances – regardless of whether there were available alternatives. This bill would

authorize police officers to only use deadly force when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that deadly force is necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person, or to apprehend a fleeing person for a felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless the person is immediately apprehended.

We believe that AB 392 provides an important protection for persons with disabilities.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill and requests your signature. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

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 Shirley Weber, California State Assembly
Anthony DiMartino, Chief of Staff, Office of Assembly Member Weber
Anthony Williams, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs
Tammy Trinh, Legislative Research Assistant, Office of Legislative Affairs