March 11, 2019

Honorable Autumn R. Burke  
Chair, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee  
Capitol Building, Room 5150  
Sacramento, CA 95814  

RE: AB 416 (Fong) as introduced February 7, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Burke:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports AB 416. This bill is scheduled for hearing before Assembly Revenue and Taxation committee on March 18, 2019.

California adopted the Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014, which allows certain individuals with disabilities to accumulate savings without losing their eligibility for means tested SSI, Medicaid and other government benefit programs. The money in an ABLE account can be used to pay for a broad range of “qualified disability expenses” such as medical bills, assistive technology, housing modifications, education related expenses, etc. The CalABLE Savings Plan opened to the Public on December 18, 2018.

AB 2039 further incentivizes saving in these accounts because it allows a state tax deduction for individuals who contribute to CalABLE savings accounts benefiting individuals with disabilities. This deduction will serve to increase the contribution and provide further independence and financial stability. It follows similar state tax deductions adopted by other states.
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,

[Signature]

Curtis Child  
Legislative Director  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee  
Carlos Anguiano, Principal Consultant, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee  
Assembly Member Vince Fong  
Nainoa Johsens, Fellow, Office of Assembly Member Fong  
Julia King, Consultant, Republican Assembly Caucus Committee