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March 29, 2017

Honorable Jim Wood  
Chair, Health Committee  
California State Assembly  
Capitol Building, Room 6005  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 470 (ARAMBULA) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports AB 470. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on April 4, 2017.

Integral to understanding the effectiveness and equity in the delivery of specialty mental health services is the ability to measure outcomes. This bill requires the creation of a performance outcome dashboard, with the regular input from program stakeholders in developing the dashboard for the delivery of specialty mental health services. Also, the key performance outcome measure proffered by this bill will provide essential insight into the delivery of services by measuring key demographics of program beneficiaries such as age, sex, gender identity, race, ethnicity, primary language, sexual orientation, place of residence, and other areas. In addition to these demographics, this bill measures and reports on the timeliness of the delivery of services and beneficiary experience and clinical outcomes. Consistent data reported through a statewide reporting system will help improve the equitable and demonstrable delivery of mental health services.

Disability Rights California has long supported stronger moves toward eliminating disparities in the delivery of services, whether it be developmental disability services delivered through regional centers, child welfare and foster care services delivered by the counties, or specialty mental health services proposed in this bill. We also support improving language access as part of eliminating disparities such as the measurements proposed by this bill.

For these reasons, we strongly support AB 470. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position on this bill.

Sincerely,

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 Joaquin Arambula, California State Assembly  
Maheen Ahmed, Fellow, Office of Assembly Member Arambula  
Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee  
Rosielyn Pulmano, Chief Consultant, Assembly Health Committee