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June 18, 2019

Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Health Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 50 (KALRA) as amended April 25, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 50**. This bill is scheduled for hearing before the Senate Health Committee on June 26, 2019.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services to submit to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services a request for amendment of the Assisted Living Waiver to increase the number of participants in the program from the currently authorized 5,744 participants, to be phased in, to 18,500. The bill would also require the Department to increase its provider reimbursement tiers to compensate for mandatory minimum wage increases.

When it comes down to something as fundamental and personal as where a person lives, self-determination and enforcement of the *Olmstead* decision are paramount. People with disabilities and people who are elderly and need assistance, should be able to live in their own home or in an alternative community-based setting, if that is their choice.

The need for the expansion of waiver's importance cannot be overstated; AB 50's legislative findings attest to that point.

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,

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 Members, Senate Health Committee
Teri Boughton, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Scott Bain, Principal Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Honorable Ash Kalra, California State Assembly
Ryan Guillen, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member Kalra
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee