



**LEGISLATION AND  
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June 18, 2019

Honorable Jim Beall  
Chair, Transportation Committee  
California State Senate  
Capitol Building, Room 2082  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 516 (Chiu) as amended March 28, 2019 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Beall:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 516**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on June 25, 2019.

This bill would delete the authority of a peace officer or public employee to remove or immobilize a vehicle found upon a highway or public lands by the peace officer when it is known the owner has been issued 5 or more notices of parking violations that are delinquent and deletes the authority to remove a vehicle parked or left standing for 72 or more consecutive hours in violation of a local ordinance, or a vehicle with a registration expiration date in excess of 6 months found or operated on the highway or on public lands or in an offstreet parking facility. The bill would repeal the related authority to conduct a lien sale to cover towing and storage expenses.

The provisions in AB 516 make important reforms to the punitive and constitutionally suspect towing practices for minor traffic offenses. These practices have a particularly devastating impact on the poor because they force the loss of a vehicle, which is critical to employment and self-sufficiency, and they force individuals and families deeper into debt and

poverty. Additionally, individuals with disabilities can be disproportionately impacted by such practices because they can lack the resources and supports to pay the fines that lead to discriminatory towing practices.

DRC is currently co-counsel in a challenge to the City of San Diego's ordinance prohibiting overnight Recreational Vehicle (RV) parking and habitation on city streets or other public property. *Bloom et al. vs. City of San Diego et al. U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, Case No. 3:17-CV-02324-AJB-NLS*. Homeless and disabled individuals who lacked other housing were targeted under the ordinance and ticketed and their vehicles were subject to impoundment or actual impoundment pursuant to the current towing statutes. Homeless vehicle owners were then left with neither a place to seek shelter in their vehicles legally in the City or the availability of adequate, accessible, and medically appropriate housing that they can afford. In addition, the plaintiff homeless vehicle owners often have no funds with which to pay the excessive fines associated with the nighttime RV parking and vehicle habitation citations without jeopardizing their ability to buy food, medicine, or other necessities. As a result, homeless vehicle owners were at risk of or lost their only shelter by the City for unpaid tickets. The Court has granted a preliminary injunction against the City's vehicle habitation ordinance.

It is time to reform the punitive towing practices that can have such a devastating impact on poor persons. AB 516 is a necessary piece of that effort.

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 Transportation Committee  
Manny Leon, Principal Consultant, Senate Transportation Committee  
Katie Bonín, Secretary of Transportation, Senate Transportation  
Committee  
Honorable David Chiu, California State Assembly  
Riana King, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member Chiu  
Ted Morley, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Committee