



**LEGISLATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

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March 19, 2019

Honorable Eloise Gomez Reyes
Chair, Human Services Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 536 (Frazier) as introduced February 13, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Reyes:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 536**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Human Services Committee on March 26, 2019.

Currently, regional center services are unavailable if a person develops a developmental disability after the age of 18 in California. Regional centers specialize in providing community-based services that enable individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve their full potential and highest level of self-sufficiency.

AB 536 modifies the definition of developmental disability to include a disability that originates before an individual attains 22 years of age, continues, or can be expected to continue, indefinitely, and constitutes a substantial disability for the individual. This change would enable a person who acquires a developmental disability before he or she attains 22 years of age to be eligible for regional center services and supports.

States have adopted different age limitations. New York, Nebraska, Maryland and 34 other states define a developmental disability as one that

originates prior to age 22. Oregon splits the definition: An intellectual disability may originate prior to age 18, and a developmental disability prior to age 22. States also may adopt various thresholds to qualify for services, including degree of disability, income and eligibility for public benefits. This change in law would bring California within the majority of the states that establish age eligibility at under 22 years of age.

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, Assembly Human Services Committee
Daphne Hunt, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services
Committee
Honorable Jim Frazier, California State Assembly
Amber Garcia, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Jim
Frazier
Cyndi Hillery, Budget Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Committee