



**LEGISLATION AND
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July 30, 2019

Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Appropriations Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 623 (BERMAN) as amended June 25, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 623**. This bill is scheduled for hearing before the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 12, 2019.

This bill would delete provisions requiring certain text to be printed in a particular font and make ballot related changes allowing more flexibility.

Voting in California has made some changes over the last several years, including vote by mail and vote centers. These systems have helped many in the state become more involved in civic engagement. AB 623 would provide elections administrators more flexibility when designing ballot layouts that are user friendly and compatible with the new voting system.

This is important to people with disabilities because individuals with different vision and sensory disabilities can have a difficult time reading small fonts and font styles on ballots. Small fonts can be hard for voters with disabilities to read and cause them to misread a portion of the ballot. Ballots can also be difficult to read if the font is in a style that people with disabilities have had trouble reading. Many people, whether they have a

disability or not, have a hard time reading some ballots. AB 623 will help more Californians, including people with disabilities, participate in civic engagement by giving more flexibility in each county for the needs of voters.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Harris", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric Harris
Legislative Advocate 2
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Robert Ingenito, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Honorable Marc Berman, California State Assembly
Nichole Becker, Principal Consultant, Assembly Elections &
Redistricting Committee
Cory Botts, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee