



**LEGISLATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

1831 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-4114
Tel: (916) 504-5800
TTY: (800) 719-5798
Intake Line: (800) 776-5746
Fax: (916) 504-5807
www.disabilityrightsca.org

August 8, 2019

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

RE: AB 627 (Frazier) as amended May 16, 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 627**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 12, 2019.

This bill would require the Director of Developmental Services to identify regional centers that need satellite offices in catchment areas where barriers to access may exist. The bill would require the director, on or before July 1, 2020, to consult with each regional center identified by the department for a satellite office to determine an appropriate location for the satellite office. The bill would require a regional center that is identified to open a satellite office to inform the public of its plans to open a satellite office and to offer services to individuals with developmental disabilities at that satellite office on or before July 1, 2021.

Regional Centers in California have a mission to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities reach their goals. Currently, approximately 330,000 individuals are served by regional centers. However, the state's population of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities is estimated to be much higher than that. As

experts, the Director of Developmental Services and the leadership at the regional centers know where there are needs for satellite offices.

Satellite offices would give individuals who live in rural communities far from regional centers an opportunity to receive services and any other support. Finally, challenges with travel can be a deterrent for anyone. These satellite offices can be crucial for people with developmental disabilities who have a difficult time traveling great distances. This bill would allow regional centers to reach a greater number of people who are in need of their services.

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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent dot at the end of the last stroke.

Eric Harris
Legislative Advocate 2
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Debra Cooper, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Honorable Jim Frazier, California State Assembly
Amber Garcia, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Frazier
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee