



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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April 25, 2017

Honorable Mark Stone
Chair, Judiciary Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 3146
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 688 (CALDERON) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Stone:


Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports AB 688.

California recently adopted the Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014, which allows certain individuals with disabilities to accumulate savings without losing their eligibility for means tested SSI, Medicaid and other government benefit programs. The money in an ABLE account can be used to pay for a broad range of “qualified disability expenses.”

To encourage qualified individuals with disabilities to participate in the CalABLE program, AB 688 will exempt all amounts held in an ABLE account from enforcement of money judgments. By doing this, these funds can be used for its intended purpose to assist beneficiaries with disabilities to pay for “qualified disability expenses.” Protection against money judgments will also encourage program enrollment and increase contribution levels.

For these reasons, we support this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Evelyn" and middle initial "M." clearly legible, followed by the last name "Abouhassan".

Evelyn M. Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Ian Calderon, California State Assembly
Dylan Hoffman, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member
Calderon
Honorable Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Eric Dang, Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee