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May 30, 2019

Honorable Connie Leyva
Chair, Education Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 4061
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 743 (GARCIA) as amended April 22, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Leyva:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 743**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Education Committee on June 5, 2019.

Existing law is prescriptive as to how a student may obtain and take medication in a school setting. This includes a requirement that the student must provide a written statement from a physician detailing the procedures for appropriate medication and a statement from a parent or guardian indicating the desire to have the school district assist the student in medication.

According to the author, students in regions near the border with Mexico sometimes obtain medical care in Mexico but may be denied medication in a school setting since the physician is not in the United States. To address this confusion, this bill amends existing law to clarify that a school district shall accept the written statement of a physician licensed in another state or country.

It is unacceptable that a student may be denied essential medication during

the school day. DRC believes that students should have access to medication without being fearful that it may be withheld based on the location of the prescribing physician. Removing this uncertainty by providing clarity to schools and districts will allow students to focus on their education, not negotiating for essential medication.

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 "Jimmy Fremgen". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops and a long horizontal tail.

Jimmy Fremgen
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Education Committee
Lynn Lorber, Chief Consultant, Senate Education Committee
Debbie Look, Principal Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Honorable Eduardo Garcia, California State Assembly
Rexford Scott, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Garcia
Roger Mackensen, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Committee