



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
INFORMATION 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

April 25, 2017

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 763 (SALAS) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports AB 763. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on April 26, 2017.

Last year, AB 2565 (Salas) would have made the minimum state funding available to all Independent Living Centers (ILCs). The modest investment of \$705,000 for three unfunded ILCs was ultimately included in the 2016-17 budget. Unfortunately, that funding was removed from the Governor's 2017-18 budget proposal released in January. AB 763 would help restore this funding inequity. The Department of Rehabilitation has anticipated a substantial increase in funding from which it disburses base funds for ILCs. Therefore, this bill could have no impact on the General Fund.

California's 28 ILCs are a valuable resource to people with disabilities. They are independent, statewide nonprofits that work with people with all types of disabilities to help them to live, learn, and work independently in their communities.

Primarily federally-funded, they provide: (1) Independent Living Skills Training; (2) Information and Referral Services; (3) Direct and Systems Change Advocacy; (4) Peer Counseling and Support; (5) Personal Assistance Services; (6) Accessible Housing Referrals; (7) Assistive Technology Services; (8) Transitions to Community Based Living Assistance to Remain Living in their Communities; and (8) Youth Transition Coordination. Although ILCs must provide these mandatory core services, funding has failed to keep pace with the demand for IL services. The lack of any funding has left substantial numbers of un-served and underserved people with disabilities in the catchment areas of all 28 ILCs.

Given the valuable resources and skills the ILCs provide to the disability community, 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 that reads "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Evelyn" and the last name "Abouhassan" clearly legible.

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Rudy Salas, California State Assembly
Teodoro Martinez, Communications Director, Office of Assembly
Member Salas
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Swenson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations
Committee