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June 19, 2017

Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Human Services Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 763 (SALAS) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wiener:

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 Senate Human Services Committee on June 27, 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 3 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.

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 cursive script that reads "Evelyn M. Abouhassan".

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, Senate Human Services Committee
Mareva Brown, Chief Consultant, Senate Human Services Committee