



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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March 14, 2017

Honorable Bill Quirk
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2163
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 840 (QUIRK) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Quirk:

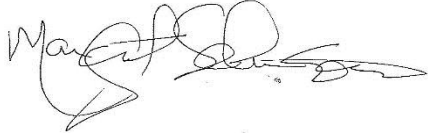
Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports AB 840. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee on March 22, 2017.

Under existing law, if an elections official determines a voter has failed to sign the identification envelope containing a vote by mail ballot, the elections official is prohibited from rejecting it if the voter signs the identification envelope at the election official's office before 5 p.m. on the eighth day after the election or the voter completes and submits an unsigned ballot statement. This bill would authorize a voter to submit a completed unsigned ballot statement to the local elections official by email by requiring that instructions accompanying unsigned ballot statements tell a voter a completed unsigned ballot statement can be submitted by email. The bill would require the local elections official to include an email address on the internet web page containing the unsigned ballot statement and instructions.

As you know, some people with disabilities have difficulty traveling. Allowing a person to submit an unsigned ballot statement via email will provide relief to these voters and ensure their vote is counted.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Margaret Johnson, Esq.
Advocacy Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Andrea Perry, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member Quirk
Honorable Chair and Members, Assembly Elections and Redistricting
Committee
Nichole Becker, Principal Consultant, Assembly Elections and
Redistricting Committee