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September 10, 2019

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 947 (Quirk-Silva) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 947 and requests your signature.**

This bill establishes an expanded core curriculum for students who are blind, have low vision, or are visually impaired and authorizes local educational agencies (LEAs) to consider the expanded core curriculum when developing students' individualized education programs. This includes compensatory skills, such as braille and concept development, orientation and mobility, career technical education, assistive devices, independent living skills, and others. The bill also requires that an appropriately certified orientation and mobility specialist be part of the educational team evaluating and supporting a pupil who is blind, low vision, or visually impaired.

Every person is entitled to a high-quality education regardless of disability. This includes providing appropriate support and accommodations for pupils with disabilities to ensure that they can achieve success in an academic setting. This bill provides supports to pupils with visual impairments and recognizes that pupils require individualized and collaborative support in their schools.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill and requests your signature. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Child". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Curtis" and last name "Child" clearly distinguishable.

Curtis Child
Legislative Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva, California State Assembly
Matthew Hurley, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Quirk-Silva
Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs
Sam Miller, Assistant Legislative Deputy, Office of Legislative Affairs