



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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May 15, 2018

Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chair, Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Philip Ting
Chair, Budget Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Richard Roth
Chair, Budget and Fiscal Review
Subcommittee #4
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4034
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Jim Cooper
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #4
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6025
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California Eugenics Sterilization Compensation Program

Dear Budget Committee Leaders:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, respectfully requests a \$5.5 million budget allocation to establish and fund the California Eugenics Sterilization Compensation Program. This important program will be used to redress past harm caused to Californians who were involuntarily sterilized under the State's eugenics laws.

Historic Health Violations Against Latinas/os and People with Disabilities

Research shows that California's eugenics program targeted women, people with disabilities, and those of lower income. Race and ethnicity in

the U.S. has always been intertwined with eugenics efforts and other policies of reproductive oppression. Of those that were involuntarily sterilized, all were classified as having disabilities, and Latinos and Latinas were disproportionately targeted and deemed “unfit” to parent.

During the height of the program, from 1919 to 1952, women and girls in these institutions were 14% more likely to be sterilized than their male counterparts. Latina patients were 59% more likely to be sterilized than non-Latinas and Latino patients were 23% more likely to be sterilized than non-Latino males. It is estimated that as of 2018, 62% of sterilization survivors are women, 18% are Latinas/os, and 58% were sterilized at Sonoma State Home.

Funding Breakdown

According to data published in the American Journal of Public Health, approximately 20,000 individuals were sterilized pursuant to the State’s eugenics laws from 1919 to 1952, and the California Eugenic Sterilization Research Group estimates that in 2019 there will be 631 survivors. Based on numbers from North Carolina, the first state to pass and implement a similar compensation bill, we expect 25% to come forward—about 158 people. Compensation would be made available to individuals alive as of January 1, 2019.

- \$1.5 million for agency implementation and outreach costs.
- \$4 million in funding for victim compensation.

Program Implementation

The implementation structure for establishing the California Eugenics Sterilization Compensation Program is outlined in SB 1190 (Skinner). The program would be implemented by the California Victim Compensation Board and provide victim compensation to any survivor of state-sponsored sterilization conducted pursuant to eugenics laws that existed in the State of California between 1909 and 1979. The measure is currently moving through the legislative process and implementation would be contingent upon funds being appropriated by the Legislature.

DRC appreciates your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to ensure that we can provide some closure to those harmed under past government-sponsored discriminatory practices.

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 Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Renita Polk, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee
Genevieve Morelos, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Myra Gissel Durán, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
Carly A. Myers, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Emily Galpern