



**LEGISLATION AND  
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March 3, 2021

Honorable Bill Dodd  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2082  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 281 (Dodd) as introduced February 1, 2021 – CO-SPONSOR**

Dear Senator Dodd:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 281 which we are co-sponsoring with East Bay Innovations.** This bill would conform SB 214 (Dodd 2020) to recent changes in federal eligibility that reduced the length of stay requirement in an inpatient facility from 90 to 60 days and makes the program a state funded Medi-Cal benefit if federal funding is terminated.

In January 2007, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded California a grant under the Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration. California established CCT to implement MFP to help people who want to transition out of institutional living. There are three key segments. Pre-transition involves identifying people who would like to move, determining if necessary supports are available in the community, and undertaking the preparations needed to insure a move can happen.

Preparations include home modification, first and last month rent, utilities, buying food and household supplies, and more. Pre-transition preparation is individualized to the needs of each person, aimed at making sure the move will be successful. After the transition itself, CCT provides up to a full year of follow-up support so that the adjustment is as smooth as possible.

CCT has successfully demonstrated the State is able to accomplish three goals simultaneously: (1) Medi-Cal beneficiaries living in skilled nursing institutions for longer than 90 days can be transitioned back into community living; (2) California can comply with the *Olmstead* decision requiring the State to enable people with disabilities to live in the most integrated setting possible; and (3) the State can realize savings since community living is more cost effective for the State.

The CCT program provides the necessary infrastructure to transition individuals during this time of the COVID pandemic, which has put older individuals at high risk of acquiring the virus and particularly those who are residing in nursing homes. Over 40% of the total COVID-19 deaths in California have been in nursing homes. It is critical that all available tools must be implemented to move individuals out of, or avoid entry into, nursing homes, while California is in the depths of the pandemic.

For these reasons, DRC respectfully requests your “aye” vote. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sawait Seyoum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sawait Seyoum  
Senior Legislative Advocate  
Disability Rights California

