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June 10, 2021

Honorable Marc Berman
Chair, Elections
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 3123
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 35 (Umberg) as amended March 18, 2021 – SUPPORT IF
AMENDED**

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports if amended SB 35**. DRC previously submitted a letter of support on March 11, 2021. This bill is scheduled for hearing before Assembly Elections Committee on June 16, 2021.

Disability Rights California advocates for voters with disabilities to be able to vote privately and independently. We support efforts to help prevent voters with disabilities from having their vote impeded by loud and disruptive electioneering activities.

Previous versions of SB 35 protected voters with disabilities waiting in line to vote by extending the electioneering buffer to 200 feet. This also would have protected voters with disabilities waiting in their car to vote using curbside voting. The most recent version of the bill makes the electioneering bubble for people in line go from 200ft to “immediate vicinity.”

DRC would prefer reverting to the original 200 feet buffer for voters in line but we understand that there are legitimate concerns with this from an election administration perspective because of the difficulty of enforcing the bubble due to the changing length of the line of voters. Instead we ask that the curbside voters be specifically included. We recommend adding the curbside voting area to references to outdoor sites in both Elec. Code 18370(c) and 18541(c). The language would then read "An outdoor site at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot, including the curbside voting area." A standard using "immediate vicinity" will not adequately protect voters with disabilities from electioneering activities who are using curbside voting to complete a ballot in their vehicles.

For these reasons, **DRC supports SB 35 if amended.** 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, appearing to read "Eric Harris". The signature is stylized with a large "E" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric Harris
Director of Public Policy
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Elections Committee
Honorable Thomas Umberg, California State Senate
Aria Ghafari, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Umberg