



**LEGISLATION &
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March 17, 2021

Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 749 (GLAZER) as introduced February 19, 2021 - SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Pan:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 749**. This bill is being heard March 17, 2021 in the Senate Health Committee. SB 749 would provide greater oversight of mental health services spending by requiring the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) to track the spending of mental health services funds and the outcomes for people dealing with mental illness achieved by that spending

According to the state auditor, despite the wide variety of services counties can provide, the State's current public reporting for mental health funds relies on disjointed and incomplete tools—a result of multiple funding sources with different requirements and levels of transparency.

This bill addresses this disparity by creating a state framework for collecting information about how counties spend mental health funds, across all major funding sources, and the extent to which that spending improves the lives of individuals with mental illnesses. It lists the specific outcomes that must

be tracked and publicly reported to provide better information for decision makers to understand what services are working and what are not.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the mental health crisis in the state and policymakers and stakeholders cannot make informed decisions without a better understanding on how these funds are currently being utilized. This bill closes that gap by providing greater oversight and accountability on those funds.

For these reasons, Disability Rights California supports SB 749 and 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 "Gregory Cramer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Gregory Cramer
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

CC: The Honorable Steve Glazer
Caila Pedroncelli, Office of Senator Glazer
The Honorable Members of Senate Health Committee