



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC  
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June 13, 2018

Honorable Jim Wood  
Chair, Health Committee  
California State Assembly  
Capitol Building, Room 6005  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1004 (WIENER) as proposed to be amended – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 1004 as proposed to be amended**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on June 19, 2018.

This bill seeks to provide a structure within the Mental Health Services Act to move counties toward using their Prevention and Early Intervention funds under the Act to standardize and strengthen early intervention strategies for mental health. As stated in the intent language, the longer mental illness goes untreated, the more likely that a young person will spiral down a damaging course. Plans that focus more early intervention for youth will significantly strengthen the behavioral health delivery system thereby improving outcomes throughout the system. We commend the author and sponsor for bringing this bill forward.

We also believe that the most recent amendments strengthen the bill by ensuring that “outreach and engagement” will include secondary education as a priority including programs for at risk youth; and, that culturally competent and linguistically appropriate prevention and intervention programs, including programming across the lifespan, are added as a

fourth priority. We appreciate the author including these important provisions.

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 Scott Wiener, California State Senate  
Angela Hill, Fellow, Office of Senator Wiener  
Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee  
Reyes Diaz, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee  
Adriana Ruelas, Legislative Affairs Director, Steinberg Institute  
Paula Villescaz, Principal Consultant, Assembly Health Committee