

LEGISLATION & PUBLIC INFORMATION UNIT

1831 K Street Sacramento, CA 95811-4114

Tel: (916) 504-5800

TTY: (800) 719-5798 Intake Line: (800) 776-5746

Fax: (916) 504-5807

www.disabilityrightsca.org

September 6, 2018

Honorable Jerry Brown Governor of California Capitol Building, 1st Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1125 (ATKINS) as amended August 28, 2018 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 1125 and requests your signature.**

SB 1125 eliminates a harmful barrier to accessing mental health services by allowing community health centers to bill Medi-Cal for mental health services and other medical services on the same day. It is common for a patient to be seen in a primary care clinic for a non-mental health related service and receive a referral for a mental health service, which cannot be made because of the billing requirement. Likewise, a patient may seek both a mental health and non-mental health service and cannot make the appointment for the same day. This barrier is both inefficient for patients and health providers. Allowing health centers to access the same-day billing statute already in place in other public programs will ensure more early intervention in mental illness and guarantee that we are using the integrated health services available to our communities at their full potential.

SB 1125 (ATKINS) as amended August 28, 2018 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE Page 2 of 2

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill and requests your signature. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Very truly yours,

Curtis Child

Legislative Director

Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Toni Atkins, California State Senate

Edson Perez, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Atkins

Donna Campbell, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative

Affairs

Samuel Miller, Legislative Assistant, Office of Legislative Affairs