



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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July 19, 2018

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1125 (ATKINS) as amended May 25, 2018 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 1125**. This bill will soon come before you for hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill. 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 Toni Atkins, California State Senate
Edson Perez, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Atkins
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Lisa Murawski, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations
Committee
Samantha Lui, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Peter Anderson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Committee