



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC  
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May 15, 2018

Honorable Ricardo Lara  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
California State Senate  
Capitol Building, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1125 (ATKINS) as introduced – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Lara:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 1125**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 22, 2018.

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" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Child".

Curtis Child  
Legislative Director  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Toni Atkins, California State Senate  
Edson Perez, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Atkins  
Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Samantha Lui, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee