

## LEGISLATION & PUBLIC INFORMATION UNIT

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California's protection & advocacy system

August 24, 2018

Honorable Nancy Skinner California State Senate Capitol Building, Room 2059 Sacramento, CA 95814

## RE: SB 1142 (SKINNER) as amended August 23, 2018 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Skinner:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 1142**.

This bill would make important improvements to the discharge of incarcerated individuals and particularly avoid late-night discharges. As the findings in the bill state, persons who suffer from mental illness or substance addiction are far less likely to be able to access immediate treatment services following a late-night release from county jail. Intentional or not, these release policies are cruel and fail to acknowledge the often significant lived trauma that people, especially women, who are involved in the criminal justice system have experienced.

The Getting Home Safe Act will ensure that people are released with expediency from county jails with conditions that protect their health and maximize the likelihood of their success by preventing rearrest through the establishment of a statewide release standard for county jails to follow. SB 1142 (SKINNER) as amended August 23, 2018 – SUPPORT Page 2 of 2

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,

Curtis Child Legislative Director Disability Rights California

cc: Angela Yip, Fellow, Office of Senator Skinner Mary Kennedy, Chief Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee Greg Pagan, Chief Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee