



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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July 20, 2018

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

RE: SB 1152 (HERNANDEZ) as amended June 28, 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 1152**. This bill will soon come before you for hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

This bill would require each hospital to include within the hospital discharge policy, a written homeless patient discharge planning policy and process that includes, among other requirements, coordinating services and referrals for homeless patients, and procedures for homeless patient discharge referrals to shelters, medical care, and behavioral health care. Additionally, it would require each hospital to report specific information about all patient housing and discharges to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

Homeless individuals often look to emergency rooms for their medical care because of their inability to access the care elsewhere. Additionally, they may be suffering from physical and mental degeneration because of their homelessness. Therefore, it is critical that they only be discharged from hospitals if there is a plan for assuring that they can access resources and supports so that they are not vulnerable in unsafe conditions upon

discharge. This bill will also lead to fewer avoidable readmissions, which are costly and have been the focus of numerous quality and payment reform initiatives.

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 Ed Hernandez, California State Senate
Vincent Marchand, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Lisa Murawski, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations
Committee
Peter Anderson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Committee