



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC  
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September 6, 2018

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

**RE: SB 1155 (HUESO) as amended August 20, 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 1155 and requests your signature.**

SB 1155 clarifies that court interpreters shall be appointed in small claims court cases just as they are in other civil proceedings. With the guidance of Justice Cuéllar and other court leaders, the Judicial Council and the trial courts have begun to make significant progress addressing the needs of court users who need assistance with English. This bill aids in that effort by striking archaic and obsolete statutory provisions that are inconsistent with the civil rights obligations imposed by federal and state law.

Outcomes in small claims court proceedings can have significant consequences for limited English litigants, be they plaintiffs or defendants. For low-income litigants, judgements in small claims court, or the lack thereof, may be life altering. Thus, the risks of language barriers precluding a fair outcome is as important in small claims court proceedings as in any other court proceeding. This bill recognizes and promotes the progress the courts have made, and takes a substantial step toward the goal that all court users

have equal access to justice regardless of national origin characteristics, including language.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Child". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "A".

Curtis Child  
Legislative Director  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Ben Hueso, California State Senate  
Aaron Brieno, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Hueso  
Daniel Seeman, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs  
Daniel Gutierrez, Assistant Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs