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February 22, 2017

Honorable Jim Beall  
California State Senate  
Capitol Building, Room 2082  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 143 (BEALL) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Beall:

Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports SB 143. SB 143 clarifies that criminal justice reforms under Proposition 36 (2012) and Proposition 47 (2014) apply to people confined in state psychiatric hospitals.

Since 2011, California's prison system has undergone reforms and changes largely in response to federal lawsuits revealing inadequate medical and mental health care in the prison system. Ironically, people with mental health disabilities have not benefitted from the reforms—even though the lawsuits were instigated on their behalf and the Supreme Court affirmed their complaints in 2011.

Incarcerating people with mental health disabilities costs more than twice as much as providing community based residential treatment, yet community treatment yields better results with reductions in arrests and length of incarceration.

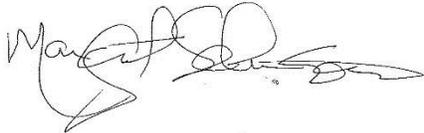
SB 143 clarifies that criminal justice reforms under Proposition 36 (2012) and Proposition 47 (2014) apply to people in state psychiatric hospitals if the person is no longer a danger to public safety. The exclusion of patients

in state hospitals was not intended by the authors of these propositions.

SB 143 simply allows fair and equal access to the law.

For these reasons, we support this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position on this bill.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Margaret Johnson, Esq.  
Advocacy Director  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Chair and Members, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Stella Choe, Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Carla Saporta, Consultant, Office of Senator Beall