



**LEGISLATION AND
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June 19, 2019

Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Chair, Public Safety Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 144 (MITCHELL) as amended May 21, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer, Sr.:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 144**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Public Safety Committee on July 9, 2019.

This bill would eliminate a series of administrative fees that may be charged to defendants charged with a crime or convicted of a crime and are related to the crime. At every point in the criminal legal process, California state law authorizes counties to charge administrative fees. From booking and arrest to representation by a public defender and probation supervision, an individual can face a host of fees.

These fees follow a defendant for years after being charged with a crime and following incarceration for the crime. The collection takes critical resources from individuals who are seeking reentry into society and who are attempting to support themselves and their families. Imposing fees on individuals who lack the ability to pay them is not only unfair it is counterproductive in a criminal justice system focused on rehabilitation and anti-recidivism.

Additionally, individuals with mental illness, like persons of color, are overrepresented in our criminal justice system. Thus, the imposition and collection of the fees also have a disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities. This bill will bring greater equities to a significantly flawed fee collection system.

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 Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Gregory Pagan, Chief Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Mary Kennedy, Chief Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee
Honorable Holly Mitchell, California State Senate
Bridget Kolakosky, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Mitchell
Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee