



**LEGISLATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

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September 12, 2019

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 160 (JACKSON) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 160 and requests your signature.**

SB 160 requires counties to integrate cultural competence in their emergency plans when those plans are updated and provide a forum for community engagement in geographically diverse locations in order to engage with culturally diverse communities, which includes, among others, people with disabilities. Sadly, emergencies such as wildfires are becoming more a part of life but emergency response is hindered if responders cannot effectively communicate and interact with the people they are trying to help. As defined in the bill, cultural competence specifically includes disability and we see the bill as helping ensure people with disabilities receive appropriate and accessible assistance in an emergency.

During a crisis, time is of the essence for impacted individuals to evacuate or take other precautionary action. SB 160 will deconstruct the linguistic and cultural barriers local jurisdictions face by incorporating people with disabilities, among other populations, in emergency plans.

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 fluid and cursive, with the first name "Curtis" and last name "Child" clearly distinguishable.

Curtis Child
Legislative Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson, California State Senator
Amy Schwanhauser, Office of Senator Hannah Beth Jackson
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs
Sam Miller, Assistant Legislative Deputy, Office of Legislative Affairs