



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
INFORMATION UNIT**

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September 10, 2018

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

**RE: SB 175 (MCGUIRE) as amended August 6, 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 175 and requests your signature on this legislation.**

SB 175 would authorize a court to order, until June 30, 2021, the commitment of an individual who meets specified criteria for admission due to an acute crisis, to a separate and distinct unit of Canyon Springs Community Facility. This bill would take effect immediately as an urgency statute.


DRC is supportive of the state providing acute crisis services and believes that the law in the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) regarding acute crisis services has worked well. We support the expansion of acute crisis beds to Canyon Springs as an interim solution of providing additional services.

DRC does note that there are some issues, which, at a minimum, require careful monitoring. The current crisis units are successful, in part, because individuals live in small, more homelike units. At Canyon Springs, because of its configuration, it is not possible to have 5-bed units. While we support

and appreciate inclusion of language in the bill that makes the unit both separate and distinct, we remain concerned that the larger size will make it less homelike and harder for individuals to learn the skills to transition successfully to the community. Because of these concerns, DRC believes it is important to carefully monitor implementation of the program. We also think it is important for the Legislature to ask for information about implementation to help it with oversight responsibilities.

Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Evelyn M. Abouhassan".

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Mike McGuire, California State Senate
Jessica Zaragoza, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator McGuire
Donna Campbell, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs
Samuel Miller, Legislative Assistant, Office of Legislative Affairs