



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
INFORMATION UNIT**

1831 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-4114
Tel: (916) 504-5800
TTY: (800) 719-5798
Intake Line: (800) 776-5746
Fax: (916) 504-5807
www.disabilityrightsca.org

July 3, 2018

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 175 (MCGUIRE) as amended July 2, 2018 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 175**. This bill will soon come before you for hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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 will support the expansion of acute crisis beds to Canyon Springs as an interim solution of providing additional services.

DRC does want to 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

due to the 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 have concerns that the larger size will make it less homelike and harder for individuals to learn the skills to transition successfully to the community.

DRC intends to monitor the implementation of the program and suggests that the Legislature also ask for information 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
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Swenson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations
Committee
Alex Khan, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee