



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC  
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June 22, 2018

Honorable Blanca Rubio  
Chair, Human Services Committee  
California State Assembly  
Capitol Building, Room 5175  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 175 (MCGUIRE) as amended June 4, 2018 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 175**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Human Services Committee on June 26, 2018.

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.

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 home like 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 black ink, reading "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Evelyn" and the last name "Abouhassan" clearly legible.

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 Human Services Committee  
Daphne Hunt, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services  
Committee  
Kelsy Castillo, Senior Consultant, Assembly Human Services  
Committee  
Irene Frausto, Committee Secretary, Assembly Human Services  
Committee  
Alex Khan, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee