



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC  
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April 10, 2017

Honorable Ed Hernandez  
Chair, Health Committee  
California State Senate  
Capitol Building, Room 2080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 202 (DODD) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hernandez:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 202**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Health Committee on April 19, 2017.

Currently, Medi-Cal recipients who are in a medical institution or nursing facility may only retain \$35 as a personal needs allowance from any income that they may receive that otherwise must be used toward the recipient's share of cost. This bill would increase the personal needs allowance amount from \$35 to \$80 per month while a person is a patient and would require the Department of Health Care Services to annually increase this amount based on the percentage increase in the California Consumer Price Index.

In over 30 years, the state has not increased the personal and incidental needs amount or revised the calculation methodology. The personal and incidental needs payment for institutionalized Medi-Cal beneficiaries has remained at \$35 since 1985; however, the inflation rate over the same time period has increased by 126%. The maintenance needs allowance is intended to cover incidentals such as clothing, shoes, hair styling, snacks

and/or entertainment needs. However, at \$35 per month, individuals living in long-term care facilities are unable to meet their basic incidental needs. This modest increase would allow those confined to institutions to be able to better meet their most basic personal needs.

For these reasons, we support this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position on this bill.

Sincerely,

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 Bill Dodd, California State Senate  
Marisol Prieto-Valle, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Dodd  
Honorable Members, Senate Health Committee  
Scott Bain, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee