



**LEGISLATION AND
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May 10, 2019

Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Appropriations Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 214 (Dodd) as amended May 2, 2019 – SPONSOR AND
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Portantino:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 214 which we are co-sponsoring with East Bay Innovations.** This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 13, 2019.

SB 214 assures continuation of the successful California Community Transitions Program (CCT), which has assisted more than 3,500 individuals in moving out of a nursing home and into their own home or other community setting.

In January 2007, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded California a grant under the Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration. California established CCT to help people who want to transition out of institutional living. There are three key segments. Pre-transition involves identifying people who would like to move, determining if necessary supports are available in the community, and undertaking the preparations needed to insure a move can happen.

Preparations include home modification, first and last month rent, utilities, buying food and household supplies, and more. Pre-transition preparation is individualized to the needs of each person, aimed at making sure the move will be successful. After the transition itself, CCT provides up to a full year of follow-up support so that the adjustment is as smooth as possible.

CCT has successfully demonstrated the State is able to accomplish three goals simultaneously: (1) Medi-Cal beneficiaries living in skilled nursing institutions for longer than 90 days can be transitioned back into community living; (2) California can comply with the *Olmstead* decision requiring the State to enable people with disabilities to live in the most integrated setting possible; and (3) the State can realize savings since community living is more cost effective for the State.

MFP had a federal sunset of December 31, 2018. Despite efforts to secure federal or state funding before the end of 2018, agencies performing transition services had to begin planning for loss of the program. Some have laid off staff or eliminated transition services altogether because of the uncertainty of the federal funding. The modest extension recently approved by the federal government gives us optimism for more federal funding but that is far from certain. Even without federal funding, the state has an obligation to comply with *Olmstead*, and, through CCT, a cost-effective way to do so.

The CCT Program has been able to realize significant savings. The average savings per participant per year average approximately \$60,000. According to the Department's estimate pages, in FY 2018-19 the total program costs are estimated to be \$10.3 million (\$1.5 GF and \$8.7 FF) and the total savings are estimated at \$24.5 million for a net savings of \$12.5 million. In FY 2017-18 the total costs were estimated to be \$12.9 million (\$2 million GF and \$10.8 FF) and the total savings were \$28.8 million for a net savings of \$14.6 million. Thus, even if the program were funded entirely with GF it would still generate savings for the state.

Moreover, beyond the savings CCT generates the program helps move people out of institutions and into their homes and communities. Significantly, of the CCT transitions, 83% remained in the community for at least a year.

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

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 Bill Dodd, California State Senate
Marisol Prieto-Valle, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Dodd
Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Samantha Lui, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee