



**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

March 7, 2017

Honorable Robert Hertzberg
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 4038
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 237 (HERTZBERG) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

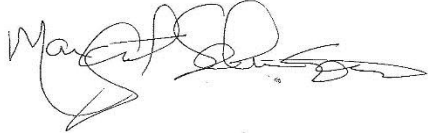
Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports SB 237. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Public Safety Committee on March 21, 2017.

This bill would authorize an arresting officer to release a person from custody if the person is taken to a facility for the purpose of mental health evaluation and treatment and no further criminal proceedings are desirable.

Many people with mental health disabilities taken into custody need treatment rather than criminal action. This bill ensures people who need treatment promptly receive it when criminal proceedings are not necessary.

For this reason, we 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 "Margaret Johnson", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Margaret Johnson, Esq.
Advocacy Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Julissa Delgado, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Hertzberg
Honorable Chair and Members, Senate Public Safety Committee
Jessica Devencenzi, Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee