



**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

May 30, 2017

Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Chair, Public Safety Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 237 (HERTZBERG) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer, Sr.:

Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports SB 237.

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.

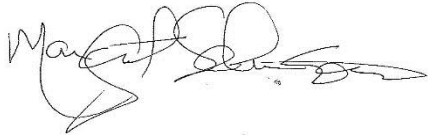
SB 237 would provide law enforcement officers with the authority to transport people with mental health disabilities, in lieu of custodial arrest, to therapeutic healthcare facilities providing acute substance use disorder detoxification for persons with co-occurring mental health disabilities. This mental health diversion model has been successfully utilized by law enforcement personnel in parts of Texas.

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 long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Margaret Johnson, Esq.
Advocacy Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable, Robert Hertzberg, California State Senate
Julissa Delgado, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Hertzberg
Honorable Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee