



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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September 15, 2017

Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 238 (HERTZBERG) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports SB 238 and requests your signature.

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.

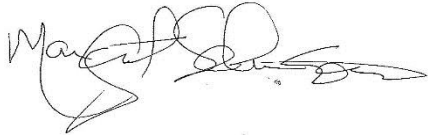
SB 238 would provide law enforcement officers with the authority to transport people with mental health disabilities, in lieu of custodial arrest, to therapeutic healthcare facilities providing acute substance use disorder detoxification for persons with co-occurring mental health disabilities. This 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 and request your signature.

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
Legislative Affairs, Office of Governor Brown