



**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](http://www.disabilityrightsca.org)

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April 25, 2017

Honorable Ricardo Lara  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
California State Senate  
Capitol Building, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 283 (WILK) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Lara:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports SB 283.

Currently, regional center services are unavailable if a person develops a developmental disability, after the age of 18 in California. Regional centers specialize in providing community-based services that enable individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve their full potential and highest level of self-sufficiency.

SB 283 modifies the definition of developmental disability to a disability that originates before an individual attains 22 years of age, continues, or can be expected to continue, indefinitely, and constitutes a substantial disability for the individual. The definition change would enable a person who acquires a developmental disability before he or she attains 22 years of age to be eligible for regional center services and supports. This change in law would make a huge difference for this group of individuals, who are currently not eligible, because it ensures that they receive needed community-based services from regional centers to be able to live their lives to the fullest.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Evelyn Abouhassan  
Senior Legislative Advocate  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Scott Wilk, California State Senate  
Junay Gardner, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Wilk  
Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Brendan McCarthy, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee