March 19, 2019

Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Health Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 29 (Durazo) as amended 3/11/2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports SB 29. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Health Committee on March 20, 2019.

SB 29 would remove immigration status as a basis for exclusion from the Medi-Cal program. This is an important and necessary change to make our public health system work better, our economy stronger, and reduce discrimination, especially for persons with disabilities who are immigrants. Many people with disabilities have routine health care needs that keep them stable and prevent Emergency Room visits. Many people with disabilities work and pay taxes; they need the assurance of health care for themselves and their families.

California has made great strides in addressing the inequities and disparities in our health care system. A logical next step is to close the largest gap in coverage among Californians. Many Californians work, pay taxes and raise families but without access to basic care.

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

Sincerely,

Deb Roth
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, California State Senate
    Daisy Luna, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Durazo
    Honorable Members, Senate Health Committee
    Kimberly Chen, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee
    Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee