



**LEGISLATION AND  
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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Deb Roth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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