



**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.disabilityrightscalifornia.org

April 14, 2017

Honorable Josh Newman
Chair, Veterans Affairs Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 4082
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 330 (BERRYHILL) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Newman:

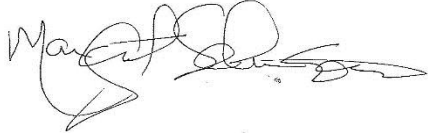
Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports SB 330. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on April 25, 2017.

Existing law requires each city, county, or city and county to collect a fee from any applicant for a building permit. This bill would authorize these entities to waive all building permit fees in the case of a veteran who has a service connected disability and is making improvements to his or her home to accommodate a disability.

This bill allows veterans to make access modifications without incurring additional costs of building permits. Making modifications because of a service related disability is a necessity so the veteran can be as independent as possible. Putting more hurdles, such as fees, in the way of attaining independence and access is not good public policy. We might suggest the legislature encourage these entities to waive fees in any situation where a person has to make modifications due to a disability, not just for veterans.

For these reasons, 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 stylized flourish extending to the right.

Margaret Johnson, Esq.
Advocacy Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Tom Berryhill, California State Senate
David Scheidt, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Berryhill
Honorable Members, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
Wade Cooper Teasdale, Staff Director, Senate Veterans Affairs
Committee