



**LEGISLATION AND  
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June 20, 2019

Honorable Jim Frazier  
Chair, Transportation Committee  
California State Assembly  
Capitol Building, Room 3091  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 336 (Dodd) as amended April 29, 2019 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Frazier:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 336**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Transportation Committee on July 1, 2019.

This bill would require a transit operator to ensure each of its fully automated transit vehicles (ATV), while the vehicle is in service, is staffed by at least one of its employees, who has training in emergency response and preparedness, passenger safety and communication and assisting disabled and elderly riders. It would also require that any deployment of an ATV be reported to the Legislature.

Due to functional limitations, many persons with disabilities rely upon public transportation for their daily travel needs. The technological opportunities in transportation are rapidly changing. And, in many ways, technology is the best friend of persons with disabilities. Improving mobility can have life-changing effects for them, improving their ability to work, study, participate in community life, and generally live more independently. That is particularly true with transportation. Fully automated vehicles are one of

those examples of the new technology and is moving closer to broad usage.

For persons with disabilities, personal autonomy is fundamental to living their daily lives. DRC advocates for accessibility designs that ensure and foster, to the greatest extent possible, that autonomy. However, depending on their particular needs and the particular transportation designs, assistance is critical for the safety of riders with disabilities. An appropriately trained on-vehicle transit employee can provide the assistance and safety that some persons with disabilities may need.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Child". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Curtis Child  
Legislative Director  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Transportation Committee  
David Sforza, Consultant, Assembly Transportation Committee  
Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senate  
Marisol Prieto-Valley, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Dodd  
Daniel Ballon, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee