



**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

September 5, 2018

Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 354 (PORTANTINO) as amended August 20, 2018 – REQUEST
FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown:

Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, is pleased to **sponsor and support SB 354. DRC requests your signature on this very important piece of legislation.**

SB 354 requires the local educational agency (LEA) to provide a parent with a copy of the individualized education plan (IEP) including any revisions, in the native language of the parent, within 30 days of the meeting, if requested, or within 30 days of a later request, if the translation requested is in one of the top eight languages in the district, excluding English and the catchall category of "other".

The bill also requires IEP documents to be translated by a qualified translator as defined and revises the definition of "parent" to specify that it includes the educational rights holder and the conservator of a child.

Appropriately, SB 354 reaffirms the existing legal obligation that the local educational agency take any action necessary to ensure that the parent understands the proceedings during the planning process for the individualized education program, including during the individualized education program team meeting. This includes obligation to communicate

in the native language of the parent, as specified in Section 300.29 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations or in another mode of communication used by the parent; arranging for an interpreter for a parent with deafness or whose native language is a language other than English; providing translation services; and providing alternative communication services, as required by Article 9.5 (commencing with Section 11135) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code and its implementing regulations, which require language access.

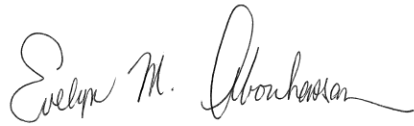
California is the most diverse state in the nation and our organizational goals include addressing service disparities and ensuring language access for all communities. The IEP, through the identification of individual goals, objectives and services is the cornerstone of ensuring that students with disabilities have access to a free and appropriate education. Additionally, we note that the state's largest school district, Los Angeles Unified, is already obligated to translate 85% of IEPs into the District's most common languages within 30 days under the terms of the Chanda Smith Consent Decree.

SB 354 does much to level the playing field by ensuring that parents whose native language is not English have timely access to a translation of their child's IEP to allow for meaningful involvement in their child's education. Attached to Disability Rights California's letter requesting signature are approximately 150 letters from constituents who are from diverse ethnic communities and support this legislation.

Disability Rights California is proud to sponsor and support this measure. We request your signature on this critical measure. Thank you for your leadership on behalf of Californians with disabilities.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Evelyn M. Abouhassan".

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Anthony Portantino, California State Senate
Kristi G. Lopez, MSW, District Representative, Office of Senator
Portantino
Anthony Molina, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Portantino
Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative
Affairs
Samuel Miller, Legislative Assistant, Office of Legislative Affairs