



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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September 4, 2018

Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 398 (MONNING) as amended March 23, 2018 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 398 and requests your signature.**

We particularly support the proposal that eliminates the “sunset” provision in the current legislation (Welfare and Institutions Code 4353 et. al.), which established a network of service programs throughout the state for survivors of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in SB 398.

As you may already know, in the United States, TBI is more common than injuries and conditions of heart attack, breast cancer, spinal cord injuries, AIDS and multiple sclerosis combined (Kolb & Whisaw, 2009). TBI diagnosis is responsible for approximately \$76.5 billion in annual direct, indirect medical and rehabilitation costs and loss of productivity in our country (CDC, 2013) and each survivor is left with an average lifetime cost of care and rehabilitation of \$7 million (CDC, 2011). Of the 2.2 million veterans returning from the Iraqi and Afghani combat theaters, up to 22.8% sustained a mild TBI as a primary or secondary diagnosis (Institutes of Medicine, 2013). Lastly, homelessness has been found to be directly related to both head injury and prior imprisonment (Kushel, 2005).

DRC is dedicated to improving the quality of life for TBI survivors and their families and friends through advocacy assistance, education and outreach to build the TBI community awareness and support for inclusion. There are only 7 sites in California that coordinate services and help improve the quality of life for adult survivors of TBI and these 7 sites only serve 19 counties. SB 398 will allow these sites to continue their important work to support TBI survivors. This legislation will add stability to the program and allow for an opportunity to expand services to reach more TBI survivors in more counties.

For these reasons, we support this bill and request your signature. Please contact me if you have 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 fluid and cursive, with the first name "Curtis" and last name "Child" clearly distinguishable.

Curtis Child
Legislative Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Bill Monning, California State Senate
Bethany Westfall, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Monning
Donna Campbell, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs
Samuel Miller, Legislative Assistant, Office of Legislative Affairs