



**LEGISLATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

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June 11, 2019

Honorable Eloise Gomes Reyes
Chair, Human Services Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 412 (Stone) as amended April 2, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Reyes:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 412**. This bill is scheduled for hearing before the Assembly Human Services Committee on June 18, 2019.

This bill would repeal certain provisions relating to regional center fees. The bill would make technical, conforming changes and other nonsubstantive changes.

During the Great Recession, the developmental disabilities services system took over \$1 billion in cuts and funding reductions. Though our economy has rebounded, many of those cuts remain in place. Among them are the "Family Cost Participation Program," requiring regional centers to pay for less respite, daycare, and camp than a child needs based on family income. Families are expected to make-up the difference. A separate, income-based fee program called the "Annual Family Program Fee" charges parents of children receiving other services.

These fees are, essentially, disability taxes. By repealing them, SB 412 removes an artificial barrier to accessing services. This important measure

shows California's priority to the developmentally disabled community.

For these reasons, DRC supports SB 412. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "E" and "H".

Eric Harris
Legislative Advocate 2
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Human Services Committee
Daphne Hunt, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services
Committee
Marisa Shea, Principal Consultant, Senate Human Services
Committee
Honorable Jeff Stone, California State Senate
Claire Marks, Fellow, Office of Senator Stone
Cyndi Hillery, Budget Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Committee