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July 7, 2017

Honorable Ed Chau
Chair, Privacy and Consumer Protection
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 156A
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 433 (MENDOZA) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Chau:

Disability Rights California, a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports SB 433. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Human Services Committee on June 13, 2017.

Current Department of Developmental Services (DDS) data does not allow it to assess employment outcomes by geography, disability type, and severity of disability, ethnicity, or age. In particular, there is a lack of data on the quality of employment for the people served and regional center consumers who do not receive day or employment services. Without better data, California cannot know how well it is implementing Employment First, where it is succeeding, or where it needs to improve.

SB 433 authorizes the Employment Development Department to disclose specified information, including: 1) wages, identifying information, industry, and business names and; 2) demographic information of any consumer of DDS. The purpose of the data sharing is to assist DDS in the implementation of the Employment First Policy and to support consumers in the achievement of competitive integrated employment.

California's Employment First Policy directs the state to make opportunities for integrated, competitive employment a clear priority. Collecting the aforementioned data from the Employment Development Department will allow for a means to measure progress of competitive integrated employment implementation and, to assist in developing effective strategies to improve employment outcomes for Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For these reasons, we support this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Evelyn M. Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Tony Mendoza, California State Senate
Jessica Zaragoza, Fellow, Office of Senator Mendoza
Honorable Members, Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection
Jennie Bretschneider, Consultant, Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection