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March 24, 2017

Honorable Tony Mendoza  
California State Senate  
Capitol Building, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 433 (MENDOZA) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Mendoza:

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 Senate Human Services Committee on March 28, 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) information necessary to validate or make eligibility determination, including wages, identifying information, industry, and business names and; 2) demographic information of any consumer of DDS to DDS, through information sharing agreements or data interfaces. 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 fluid and cursive, with the first name "Evelyn" and the last name "Abouhassan" clearly legible.

Evelyn Abouhassan  
Senior Legislative Advocate  
Disability Rights California

cc: Jessica Zaragoza, Fellow, Office of Senator Mendoza  
Honorable Chair and Members, Senate Human Services Committee  
Mareva Brown, Chief Consultant, Senate Human Services Committee