



**LEGISLATION AND
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March 21, 2019

Honorable Thomas J. Umberg
Chair, Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 3076
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 511 (Moorlach) as introduced February 21, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Umberg:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 511**. This bill is scheduled to be heard in the Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee on April 2, 2019.

Existing law establishes the California New Motor Voter Program for the purpose of increasing opportunities for voter registration by anyone qualified to be a voter under the California Constitution. This bill would require the establishment of a committee, including representatives from the Secretary of State's office, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and counties to facilitate the sharing of information necessary to implement the New Motor Voter Program. This bill would also require that the DMV train all department employees on voter registration practices implementing the New Motor Voter Program.

DRC is supportive of the provision of this bill requiring establishment of a committee, as specified, and supports the intent of this bill to ensure that DMV employees are trained on implementation of the program. Based on the experiences of DRC constituents, who are individuals with disabilities, DRC believes that prior DMV staff trainings have been less than adequate.

DRC recommends, therefore, that the training requirement be more detailed and strengthened, specifically by referencing DMV field technicians, who are the frontline staff who have direct contact with the public, as among the employees to receive training. DRC suggests the following amendment to Section 1 of the bill, amending Elections Code Section 2270, to address these concerns:

(c) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall ~~train~~ provide comprehensive training to all department employees, including field technicians, on voter registration practices implementing this chapter.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill and recommends the above amendment. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Very truly yours,



Curtis Child
Legislative Director
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Elections & Constitutional Amendments Committee
Darren Chesin, Chief Consultant, Senate Elections & Constitutional Amendments
Honorable John Moorlach, California State Senate
Jennifer Hodgkins, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Moorlach
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