



**LEGISLATION AND  
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July 30, 2019

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
California State Assembly  
Capitol Building, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 512 (Pan) as amended July 5, 2019 – SPONSOR AND  
SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **sponsors and supports SB 512**. This bill is currently pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

California currently has almost 8 million persons who are either older adults or persons with mobility, sensory, intellectual/developmental, and/or mental health disabilities. This population will grow significantly over the next decade.

Long-Term Supportive Services (LTSS) are not covered adequately by Medicare, and most Californians cannot afford to purchase private long-term care insurance. Paying out-of-pocket for LTSS is cost prohibitive for many and creates a significant financial and social burden for California families. For individuals and families, the unanticipated costs can lead to impoverishment, lack of care options, and intense psychological stress. When informal networks of care are not available, individuals and families pay out-of-pocket for LTSS, purchasing services provided by home care aides, adult day services, assisted living communities, and nursing homes,

to help fill the gap. But these services bring high costs, not only to the individuals directly involved, but also to taxpayers and the government as more individuals are forced to spend down assets to qualify for an overburdened Medi-Cal system.

California needs a new LTSS financing program that provides flexible benefits responsive to each person's unique needs. This program would preserve dignity, choice, and intentionality for individuals and families with service and support needs, and be linked to a new, sustainable funding source. This social insurance program would help relieve the increasing demographic and financial pressure on our Medi-Cal system.

For these reasons, DRC sponsors and supports this bill. Please contact me if you have any 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 Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Lisa Murawski, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations  
Committee  
Honorable Richard Pan, California State Senate  
Diana Douglas, Policy Analyst, Office of Senator Pan  
Ellen Cesaretti, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee