



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC  
INFORMATION UNIT**  
1831 K Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811-4114  
Tel: (916) 504-5800  
TTY: (800) 719-5798  
Intake Line: (800) 776-5746  
Fax: (916) 504-5807  
[www.disabilityrightsca.org](http://www.disabilityrightsca.org)

---

March 21, 2017

Honorable Anthony Portantino  
California State Senate  
Capitol Building, Room 3086  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 565 (PORTANTINO) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Portantino:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, supports SB 565. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Health Committee on March 29, 2017.

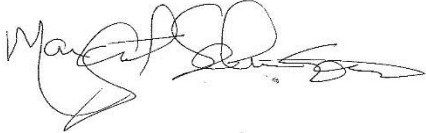
Under existing law, before a person may be certified for a 14 day intensive treatment program, the person is entitled to a certification review hearing conducted by a court appointed commissioner or referee, or a certification review hearing officer. Existing law requires the mental health facility to make reasonable attempts to notify family members or any other person designated by the patient of the time and place of the certification hearing, unless the patient requests that this information not be provided.

This bill would require the mental health facility to make reasonable attempts to notify family members or any other person designated by the patient at least 36 hours prior to the certification review hearing.

By providing a time period for notification of a hearing, if the patient wants others notified of a hearing, it ensures the person notified can arrange to be at the hearing. Since the person receiving notice may be important to the patient to attend, this bill makes sure they will know about the hearing.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Margaret Johnson, Esq.  
Advocacy Director  
Disability Rights California

cc: Tara McGee, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Portantino  
Honorable Chair and Members, Senate Health Committee  
Reyes Diaz, Consultant, Senate Health Committee