



**LEGISLATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

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April 16, 2019

Honorable Melissa Hurtado
Chair, Human Service Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 2050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 614 (Rubio) as amended April 11, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hurtado:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 614**. This bill is scheduled for hearing before the Senate Human Services committee on April 22, 2019.

Existing law establishes the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program for the purpose of increasing access to inclusive early care and education programs. The program requires the State Department of Education to award grants to local educational agencies, as defined, on a competitive basis, and requires the department's Special Education Division and Early Education and Support Division to work collaboratively to administer the program. The program requires a grant to be used for one-time infrastructure costs only.

SB 614 will extend the Inclusive Early Childhood Education (ECE) Grant Program and also lay-out criteria for awarding funds. Grant proposals must demonstrate how counties will increase access to subsidized inclusive ECE programs for children up to five years old, particularly those with exceptional needs in low-income or high-needs communities. Applicants

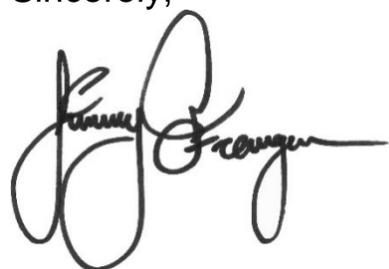
who can highlight their ability to serve children with a broad range of developmental delays and disabilities will also be prioritized.

DRC strongly advocates the utilization of mainstreaming students with exceptional needs for the well-being of the student and their peers. We believe that every student should have access to an exceptional, high-quality education, regardless of disability or background. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the author, committee staff, and leadership to address these issues and achieve our mutual goals.

DRC believes that SB 614 is an important step in increasing support and inclusion for students with exceptional needs and is grateful to Senator Portantino for carrying this legislation.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Fremgen". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops and a long horizontal tail.

Jimmy Fremgen
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Human Services Committee
Marisa Shea, Principal Consultant, Senate Human Services
Committee
Honorable Susan Rubio, California State Senate
Nathaly Teran, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Rubio
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee