



**LEGISLATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

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June 24, 2019

Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Health Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 66 (ATKINS) as amended March 21, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 66**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on July 2, 2019.

SB 66 eliminates a harmful barrier to accessing mental health services by allowing community health centers to bill Medi-Cal for mental health services and other medical services on the same day. It is common for a patient to be seen in a primary care clinic for a non-mental health related service and receive a referral for a mental health service, which cannot be made because of the billing requirement. Likewise, a patient may seek both a mental health and non-mental health service and cannot make the appointment for the same day. This barrier is both inefficient for patients and health providers. Allowing health centers to access the same-day billing statute already in place in other public programs will ensure more early intervention in mental illness and guarantee that we are using the integrated health services available to our communities at their full potential.

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 "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 Toni Atkins, California State Senate
Marjorie Swartz, Office of Senator Atkins
Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee
Rosielyn Pulmano, Chief Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Kimberly Chen, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Alex Khan, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee