



**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.disabilityrightscalifornia.org](http://www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org)

---

January 8, 2018

Honorable Ricardo Lara  
California State Senate  
Capitol Building, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 691 (LARA) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Lara:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 691**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee on January 9, 2018.

Existing law states the policy of the State of California to afford all persons, regardless of their disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other specified characteristic, equal rights and opportunities in postsecondary educational institutions of the state. The purpose of law is to prohibit acts that are contrary to that policy and to provide remedies.

SB 691 expressly references immigration status in the specified protected characteristics under these provisions. DRC supports this measure as it ensures educational equity. This is important to individuals with disabilities as they often come from diverse communities where they often do not have equality of opportunity because of their immigration status.

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 cursive script, reading "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Evelyn Abouhassan  
Senior Legislative Advocate  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Nichole Rapier Rocha, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Renee Estoista, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Lara