



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
INFORMATION UNIT**

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June 12, 2018

Honorable Mark Stone
Chair, Judiciary Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 3146
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 691 (LARA) as amended January 12, 2018 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Stone:

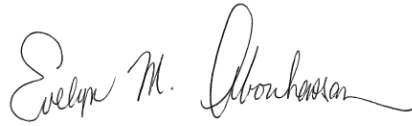
Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 691**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Judiciary Committee on June 19, 2018.

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

Sincerely,

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

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Ricardo Lara, California State Senate
Renee Estoista, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Lara
Honorable Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Anthony Lew, Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Paul Dress, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee