



**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

January 16, 2018

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

RE: SB 759 (MCGUIRE) – 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 759**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on January 16, 2018.

Existing law requires an elections official, upon receipt of a vote by mail ballot, to compare the signature on the identification envelope with either the signature appearing on the voter's affidavit of registration or the signature appearing on a form issued by an elections official that contains the voter's signature that is part of the voter's registration record. If the elections official determines that the signatures do not compare, the ballot shall not be counted.

SB 759 eliminates the prohibition on counting the ballot and instead requires the elections official to offer the voter an opportunity to verify his or her signature before certification of the election.

Signatures can change over time. There is a variety of reasons a person with a disability may have a different signature throughout the day. For example, the person may be tired or have physical limitations/challenges

that affect the way that they sign their name at a given time. Additionally, the angle or surface may affect their signature, causing it not to match the one on file. This bill helps to ensure that people with disabilities can have their vote counted and their voices heard by allowing them to verify their signature before election certification.

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 that reads "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Robert Ingenito, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Darren Chesin, Chief Consultant, Senate Elections and Constitutional
Amendments Committee
Honorable, Mike McGuire, California State Senate
Kimberly Kollwitz, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator McGuire