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June 7, 2018

Honorable Marc Berman  
Chair, Elections and Redistricting Committee  
California State Assembly  
Capitol Building, Room 6011  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 759 (MCGUIRE) as amended January 3, 2018 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

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 Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee on June 27, 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, Mike McGuire, California State Senate  
Kimberly Kollwitz, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator McGuire  
Honorable Members, Assembly Elections and Redistricting  
Committee  
Nichole Becker, Principal Consultant, Assembly Elections and  
Redistricting Committee  
Darren Chesin, Chief Consultant, Senate Elections and Constitutional  
Amendments Committee  
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee