



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

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June 14, 2017

Honorable Evan Low  
Chair, Business & Professions Committee  
California State Assembly  
Capitol Building, Room 4126  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 798 (HILL) – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

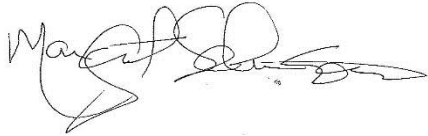
Dear Assembly Member Low:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, opposes SB 798 unless amended.

We are opposed to Section 66 of SB 798, which authorizes the Medical Board of California to obtain patient psychiatric records without any authorization from the patient or a court. The psychotherapist patient privilege is contained within Evidence Code Section 1014. This section of the Evidence Code applies to confidentiality of patient information. Unless the patient consents to disclosure of the information, it may not be disclosed, with limited exceptions. The more circumstances where there are exceptions to confidentiality, the less patients will trust their therapists, and the less effective or meaningful therapy will be. We respectfully request Section 66 be stricken from the bill.

For these reasons, we oppose this bill unless amended. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position on this bill.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Margaret Johnson, Esq.  
Advocacy Director  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Jerry Hill, California State Senate  
Sarah Mason, Consultant, Business, Professions & Economic  
Development Committee  
Honorable Members, Assembly Business & Professions Committee  
Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Chief Consultant, Assembly Business &  
Professions Committee