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September 11, 2018

Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 918 (WIENER) as amended August 21, 2018 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 918 and requests your signature.**

SB 918 establishes the Homeless Youth Act of 2018 to serve the state's homeless youth population. Among other provisions, it requires the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to take on additional responsibilities focused on addressing the needs of youth experiencing homelessness. These include setting specific, measurable goals focused on preventing and ending homelessness among youth in California, defining outcome measures and gathering data related to those goals, as well as working to improve the safety, health and welfare of youth experiencing homelessness.

The measure also requires the council, in order to coordinate a spectrum of funding, policy, and practice efforts related to young people experiencing homelessness, to: 1) coordinate with certain stakeholders; and 2) provide technical assistance and program development support to increase capacity among service providers to best meet statewide needs in areas where services have not been established, if funding is available.

DRC believes this measure is a modest step in the right direction. From our experience, many homeless youth living on the streets can have undiagnosed disabilities and may be self-medicating with drugs and alcohol because of the lack of appropriate services and supports to address their disabilities. This is a proactive measure to develop a coordinated effort to address this critical issue. For these reasons, DRC supports this bill and requests your signature.

Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the last name.

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Scott Wiener, California State Senate
Angela Hill, Fellow, Office of Senator Wiener
Donna Campbell, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative
Affairs
Samuel Miller, Legislative Assistant, Office of Legislative Affairs