



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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May 22, 2018

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

RE: SB 918 (WIENER) as amended April 12, 2018 – 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 918**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 25, 2018.

SB 918 establishes \$60 million in grant funding and appropriated funds to create or expand programs that assist with youth homelessness in California. This bill creates an Office of Homeless Youth in the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to administer the grants, identify gaps in services statewide, provide data and reports to the Legislature, and participate in the state's Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council.

Among other provisions, the \$60 million in grants, which supplements existing grantee funding, may include services such as the following, to:


- Provide rental assistance; non-time-limited supportive housing; transitional housing; rapid re-housing; host homes and shelters for homeless minors and youth.

- Provide services, including but not limited to, drug abuse prevention; mental and physical health care; transitional living services; education and employment assistance, case management, counseling, family support and others.

DRC believes this measure is a 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 provide additional resources and develop a coordinated effort to address this critical issue. 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 black ink, reading "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Evelyn" and middle initial "M." clearly visible, followed by the last name "Abouhassan".

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Scott Wiener, California State Senate
Angela Hill, Fellow, Office of Senator Wiener
Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Debra Cooper, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee