



**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.disabilityrightscalifornia.org

March 14, 2018

Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Education Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 5072
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 972 (PORTANTINO) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Allen:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 972**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Education Committee on March 14, 2018.

AB 972 requires a public school, including a charter school, or a private school that serves pupils in any of grades 7 to 12, that issues pupil identification cards, to have printed on the back of the pupil identification cards the telephone number for a suicide prevention hotline or the Crisis Text Line, or both telephone numbers.

The bill also requires a public or private institution of higher education that issues student identification cards to have printed on the back of the student identification cards the telephone number for a suicide prevention hotline or the Crisis Text Line, or both telephone numbers. For students with depression or other psychiatric disabilities who may not know where to seek help or where to find supports, requiring pupil identification cards to have printed a suicide prevention hotline or crisis text hotline telephone number on the back of the card provides another resource they can use to reach out for assistance.

For these reasons, Disability Rights California supports this legislation.
Please feel free to reach out if I can provide additional 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 legible, followed by the last name "Abouhassan".

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Anthony Portantino, California State Senate
Tara McGee, Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Portantino
Honorable Members, Senate Education Committee
Lynn Lorber, Chief Consultant, Senate Education Committee