

March 25, 2011

The Honorable Fiona Ma
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3173
Sacramento, CA 94249
Via Fax: (916) 319-2112

RE: AB 400 – Support

Dear Assemblywoman Ma:

We are writing on behalf of the Disability Rights Legal Center, to thank you for sponsoring Paid Sick Leave (AB 400), to guarantee all California workers the right to earn paid sick days to care for themselves or a sick family member.

Through our Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC), we have unique knowledge and experience with laws and legislation that impact the rights of individuals diagnosed with cancer, cancer survivors, caregivers, healthcare providers, and employers across the nation.

As you know, over 40% of California workers have no paid sick days to care for themselves or a sick family member—forcing Californians to make a difficult choice: lose pay and risk job loss in order to care for their health or that of a sick family member. Especially in these tough economic times, paid sick days would provide working families a much needed measure of economic security. Even one day of lost income can sometimes affect a family's ability to avoid homelessness.

The Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC) has worked to implement the civil rights of people with disabilities for over 35 years. We are the oldest cross-disability legal advocacy organization in the country. Our mission is to champion the rights of people with disabilities through advocacy, education, and litigation. The CLRC, a national, joint program of the DLRC and Loyola Law School, has provided over 231,000 people with free and confidential information and resources on cancer-related legal issues, including access to care, insurance, government benefits, estate planning, and employment. Please visit www.CancerLegalResourceCenter.org for more information.

The DRLC strongly supports AB 400 and we thank you for your work in ameliorating the hardships faced by families who are experiencing illness and lose access to income. We look forward to working with you to ensure passage of this bill.

Sincerely,



Paula D. Pearlman, Esq.
Executive Director, Disability Rights Legal Center



Joanna L. Morales, Esq.
Director, Cancer Legal Resource Center