

March 29, 2010

Assemblymember Sandré Swanson
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0016
Via Fax

RE: AB 59 - Support

Dear Assemblymember Swanson:

We are writing on behalf of the Disability Rights Legal Center to thank you for sponsoring AB 59, which will expand the circumstances under which an employee can take CFRA leave by allowing leave to care for a child of any age, expanding the definition of parent to include parent-in-law, and adding leave to care for a grandparent, sibling, or grandchild.

When a patient is facing cancer, or another serious health condition, many individuals step up to help out with care. AB 59 begins to recognize the myriad of individuals and family relations who may assist in care. This bill is therefore extremely beneficial for the cancer and disability communities because it would ensure that many caregivers have job protection while they care for their relative with cancer or with another disability. This bill is extremely beneficial because caregivers should not have to make a decision between caring for their relative in need and jeopardizing their own job and health benefits.

The Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC) has worked to implement the civil rights of people with disabilities for over 30 years. We are the oldest cross-disability legal advocacy organization in the country. Our mission is to promote the rights of people with disabilities and the public interest in, and awareness of, those rights by providing legal and related services. Through our Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC), one of the four programs of the Disability Rights Legal Center, we have unique knowledge and experience with laws and legislation that impact the rights of individuals diagnosed with cancer, cancer survivors and caregivers.

The CLRC 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 59, and we appreciate your dedication. We look forward to working with you to ensure the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,



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



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