

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Fran Pavely  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4035  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Via Fax: (916) 324-4823

**RE: SB 255 - Support**

Dear Senator Pavely,

We are writing on behalf of the Disability Rights Legal Center to thank you for sponsoring **SB 255**, which will provide a crucial clarification to existing law in order to better serve patients with breast cancer.

This bill will improve health care coverage options for many patients undergoing partial mastectomies and lumpectomies to determine the length of their hospital stay in consultant with their physician or surgeon. Additionally, health care service plans would not be allowed to require prior approval from the plan when making this decision. By allowing a physician or surgeon to decide, in consultation with their patients following the procedure, what length of hospital stay is best, breast cancer patients will be able to receive better quality care, tailored to their own personal needs.

Additionally, SB 255 will also ensure that insurance companies cover prosthetic devices for reconstructive surgery and all complications related to partial mastectomies and lumpectomies. Together, these two provisions will enhance the recovery process for those undergoing surgery and treatment for cancer in California.

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), 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, a national, joint program of the DLRC and Loyola Law School Los Angeles, 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](http://www.CancerLegalResourceCenter.org) for more information.

The DRLC strongly supports SB 255, and we appreciate your dedication in the fight against cancer. 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