



## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AREA BOARD 10

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*Protecting and Advocating for Persons with  
Developmental Disabilities in Los Angeles County*

June 14, 2010

The Honorable Felipe Fuentes  
California State Assembly  
Capitol Building, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2212 (Fuentes)  
Position: Support**

Dear Assembly Member Fuentes,

Developmental Disabilities Area Board 10 is a state agency mandated to protect and assert the legal, civil, and service rights of people with developmental disabilities in Los Angeles County. California has a system of 13 Area Boards, covering all regions of the state. It is on behalf of our Board of Directors and over 70,000 people with a developmental disability who reside in Los Angeles County that I write today to convey our support for AB 2212 (Fuentes).

At a juvenile court proceeding, this bill provides that when there is a question about the minor's competence, the judge would be required to order a hearing to determine the answer to that question. While the question of competency is determined, all proceedings will be suspended up to a period of six months. As noted in the Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis, you indicated that this bill mirrors competency provisions for adults, but provides clarification regarding developmental immaturity, which is not addressed in competency case law for adults. Thus, it is reasoned that this bill is necessary "to address a void in the statute that unambiguously provides guidance on the rule of law for competency in delinquency hearings."

Your bill clarifies this vague area of law within the judicial process. In doing so, this bill protects the civil rights of children with disabilities so that they are afforded protections given to adults.

We thank you for your consideration of our input. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Cathy Blin, Chair  
Governmental Affairs Committee

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cc: Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Mr. Geoff Long, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Honorable Members of the Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Mr. Gregory Pagan, Chief Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Honorable Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee  
Mr. Bob Franzoia, Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Honorable Members of the Senate Public Safety Committee  
Ms. Alison Anderson, Chief Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee