



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AREA BOARD 10

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

January 7, 2010

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: S. 2781, Rosa's Law
Position: Support**

Dear Senator Mikulski,

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 the 70,000 people with a developmental disability who reside in Los Angeles County that I write today to convey our support for your S. 2781.

If passed, your bill will change references in Federal statute from mental retardation and mentally retarded individuals to intellectual disability and individuals with an intellectual disability.

This is not merely a change in terminology; it is a fundamental shift in how people with disabilities are regarded. Your bill makes clear the shift that is occurring today – people with disabilities are people first, people who have rights, including the right to dignity, and equal protection under the law.

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

cc: Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Local Federal Representatives for Los Angeles County