



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AREA BOARD 10

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

May 17, 2010

The Honorable Pat Wiggins
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 4081
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1129 (Wiggins)
Position: Oppose**

Dear Senator Wiggins,

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 opposition for SB 1129 (Wiggins).

SB 1129 (Wiggins) permits regional centers to move people with developmental disabilities from the community to Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) pending court review for the purpose of receiving intensive behavioral services. Additionally, the bill specifies that such a move would be temporary and require review by the regional center and SDC.

Unfortunately, SB 1129 (Wiggins) lacks clarity and is duplicative. As most recently amended, this bill lacks clarity in that it does not specify who the funding source would be for a person's treatment at SDC. SB 1129 (Wiggins) is duplicative in that if someone with a developmental disability requires behavioral services, such services are typically available in the community, which existing law provides is a less restrictive setting. Furthermore, procedures for someone to move to a developmental center already exist, including when the intent is for a temporary stay until the person's behavior stabilizes.

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 Health Committee
Ms. Teri Boughton, Chief Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Honorable Members of the Assembly Human Services Committee
Mr. Eric Gelber, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services Committee