



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AREA BOARD 10

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

March 4, 2010

The Honorable Roy Ashburn
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 3060
Sacramento, CA 94248

**RE: SB 812 (Ashburn)
Position: Support**

Dear Senator Ashburn:

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 of SB 812 (Ashburn).

The planning and zoning laws in local communities and municipalities require them to regularly update their assessment of housing needs to achieve participation of all segments of the public.

Your bill would require local government needs assessments to specifically include the needs of people with developmental disabilities in their analysis. Local government would also be eligible to receive reimbursement from state funds under most circumstances. In doing so, you are providing people with disabilities the opportunity of integrating them in their neighborhoods, receiving supports and services in the community, meeting the promise of the Olmstead decision, and removing financial disincentives local government may have had. These housing needs are critical to our growing and aging disabilities community.

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: Honorable Members of the Assembly Local Government Committee
Ms. Katie Kolitsos, Chief Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee
Honorable Members of the Assembly Housing and Community Development
Committee
Ms. Lisa Engel, Chief Consultant, Assembly Housing and Community
Development Committee