

Disability Action Coalition

2019 Policy Platform

(in addition to SB 512 & AB 1434)



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AB 392 (Weber & McCarty) Peace officers: deadly force

We support AB 392, the California Act to Save Lives, which creates new requirements for when the use of deadly force is allowed. The use of deadly force would be allowed only when necessary to prevent serious bodily injury or when death is about to happen to anyone at the scene of the crime - if, given all the circumstances, there was no reasonable alternative to using deadly force, including verbal communication or other non-lethal methods of de-escalation. It is estimated that individuals with disabilities comprise one-third to one-half of all fatal encounters with law enforcement, so this bill is an important step in creating safer policing practices.

SB 338 (Hueso): Senior and disability victimization: law enforcement policies

We support SB 338, The Senior and Disability Justice Act, which will strongly incentivize police and sheriff's departments to adopt policies and procedures including requirements to investigate every report of senior and disability victimization (abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, hate crimes, homicides, and criminal interference with mandated reports), training all officers in handling these cases, mandatory arrests, and emergency protective orders when necessary to protect victims or others, outreach to the community to encourage reporting, and locally developed accountability protocols. Adults and children with disabilities, including disabilities caused by aging, have much higher rates of crime victimization than the general population. Most of these crimes are never reported to law enforcement for reasons that include the belief, sometimes well-founded, that officers won't respond or investigate these crimes.

AB 715 (Arambula & Wood): Medi-Cal: program for aged and disabled persons

We support AB 715, which increases the Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled (A&D) Program Income Level to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Under current law, individuals above 124% of the FPL (individuals with income greater than \$1,271/month or \$1,720/month for couples) enrolled in the program must pay a monthly out-of-pocket amount for medical care services, known as the "share of cost," before Medi-Cal coverage begins. This bill would increase access to Medi-Cal coverage for people with disabilities and older adults by increasing the program income limit to \$1,396/month for individuals and \$1,892/month for couples.

SB 10 (Beall): Mental health services: peer, parent, transition-age, and family support specialist certification

We support SB 10, which establishes a state certification process for peer providers (people with experience recovering from addiction or mental illness who guide and help their clients) with four distinct certification categories: peer, parent, transition-age youth, and family support specialist. This bill requires Department of Healthcare Services to submit a Medicaid State Plan Amendment to add peer support specialist services as a reimbursable Medi-Cal benefit. It is time for California to embrace peer support as an evidence-based model to improve outcomes for individuals with behavioral disabilities and maximize federal Medicaid funds.

SB 329 (Mitchell): Discrimination: housing: source of income

We support SB 329, which prohibits discrimination against Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) holders by adding vouchers to the list of sources of income that cannot be denied. It often takes many years for an applicant to obtain a housing voucher. Even after waiting to receive a voucher, it can be extremely difficult to use a voucher because many landlords openly refuse to allow the voucher as a form of rent payment. SB 329 is an important step towards increasing access to housing for people with disabilities and all voucher holders.

Budget Ask:

The Disability Action Coalition applauds Governor Newsom's temporary restoration through 12/31/21 of the 7% In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) reduction in service hours, but we must not stop there. We, as advocates, need to tell the Governor that a permanent repeal of the 7% IHSS cuts is needed now more than ever. The need for long term services and supports is increasing. Without a permanent restoration, every budget cycle, seniors and people with disabilities will be at risk of losing access to necessary services that keep them in their homes and communities. Without a permanent restoration, the IHSS workers - the attendants and caregivers - are also at risk of harm and loss of income.