

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
LOU CORREA

THIRTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT



## SENATE BILL 1178

### Housing for Californians with Developmental Disabilities

#### **THE PROBLEM**

California lacks housing opportunities that are safe, affordable and integrated for persons with developmental disabilities as well as families with children with developmental disabilities. When family caregivers are no longer able to support the adult child in the home, alternative living arrangements are difficult to locate. The system needs to have an array of alternative living arrangements and support services available.

#### **THE SOLUTION**

SB 1178 would establish a new source of funding to provide affordable community-based housing for individuals with developmental disabilities.

This bill addresses the impending crises in California related to the lack of affordable rental housing for regional center consumers with developmental disabilities. The bill provides an innovative approach by establishing a new methodology for regional center rental subsidies and housing development funds that will be leveraged through existing available resources.

#### **KEY PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL**

This bill utilizes existing funding resources that are currently allocated to the developmental center operations. As developmental center savings are achieved, SB 1178 ensures that these important resources will “follow the consumers.”

SB 1178 funding will be achieved primarily by the transfer of developmental center consumers into a community setting.

Thus, SB 1178 will improve the lives of our most vulnerable Californians while promoting a sound fiscal policy for the Department of Developmental Services.

#### **EXISTING LAW**

Current law requires cities and counties, when developing their housing elements, to make diligent efforts to obtain, assess, and analyze information on the housing needs of the developmentally disabled. California law also provides financial assistance for the construction, rehabilitation and preservation of permanent and transitional rental housing for lower income households through the Multifamily Housing Program. Existing law does not provide for a process by which the regional centers can provide consumers with rental assistance or subsidies.

## **BACKGROUND**

Currently, there is a critical shortage of appropriate and affordable housing for individuals with developmental disabilities. Among regional center consumers who are young adults (i.e. 22 to 31-year-olds), roughly 74% still live with their parents. As of September, 2013, the Department of Developmental Services reported that 28,527 of regional center consumers, 32 years of age and older, are currently living with their parents. Another 1,422 consumers still reside in developmental centers; another 300-400 consumers are living in facilities that are ineligible for federal matching funds.

Over the next 12 years, community-based services will be required to meet the needs of more than 71,000 young adults exiting California's school system. Almost 24,000 of these young adults (90% live with their parents) will be transitioning to regional center day programs and other support services in the next three years alone.

Regional centers will have to develop community residential/housing services for almost 9,000 individuals in the next 5 years. In the past 5 years, 79% of state and federal investments in affordable housing in California has been cut.

Housing is considered to be affordable if the household pays no more than 30% of their income. The monthly Supplemental Security Income of \$1003 provided to consumers. This sum is woefully inadequate to cover the existing "Fair Market Rent" payment of over \$1000 per month. The vast majority of regional center consumers cannot meet current rental costs in California.

## **SUPPORT**

Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) – Sponsor  
Sunflower Hill

## **OPPOSITION**

None received

## **CONTACT**

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