



California Association for the Retarded

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April 9, 2004

The Honorable Deborah Ortiz, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, California 95814

CAR Support Position for **SB 1895** (Burton)

(as introduced March 3, 2004)

Coordination of Special Education

Set for hearing April 14, 2004

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Dear Senator Ortiz

The California Association for the Retarded, a statewide parent and family organization with 13 local units, is writing to support SB 1895 (Burton), special education, as introduced March 3.

This bill requires that the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Secretary of Health and Welfare be jointly responsible for ensuring that a child with a disability has maximum use of state and federal resources for a free public education, designated instruction and services. It also makes the superintendent responsible for monitoring and supervising implementation of this requirement.

Many school-age children with developmental and other disabilities and their families have a very difficult time trying to identify and arrange to receive appropriate educational services. This bill addresses this issue by specifying responsibility and promoting mutual cooperation between the two designated state agencies.

Sincerely,

Marion Lieberman,
President

cc: Senator John Burton
Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee