



## California Association for the Retarded

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April 21, 2005

The Honorable Noreen Evans, Chair  
Assembly Human Services Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **AB 1145 (amended April 18, 2005) - Funding for Supported Employment April 26, 2005 Committee Hearing**

Dear Assemblymember Evans:

The California Association for the Retarded (CAR) has taken a **support** position on AB 1145 (Huff), as amended April 18, 2005. This bill seeks to enhance funding for supported employment programs that serve individuals with developmental disabilities who are regional center clients.

CAR is a statewide parent organization with 10 local units that include family advocacy organizations, operators of day programs, and parent groups at state developmental centers. CAR advocates for choice, maintenance of a continuum of services and greater parent/family involvement in decision-making processes affecting sons and daughters with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

Supported employment services assist individuals to work in the community in integrated settings. Group placements allow small groups of three to eight individuals to work at an employer's work site or rotating work assignment. The state reimburses for job coaching services based on job coach hours.

Prior budget act trailer language increased the minimum number of consumers in a group from three to four. Programs are now finally feeling the effect of this change and the results are disastrous. The new group size minimum has stifled the ability of small employers to hire individuals with disabilities, resulting in a rapid decrease in jobs. According to the California Rehabilitation Association, as many as 1,000 people would not be able to convert to groups of four and would have to transition into more expensive day programs.

We urge you to **support AB 1145**, thereby allowing these agencies to maintain their group minimums and protecting job opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,

Marion Lieberman  
President

cc: Members, Assembly Human Services Committee  
Assemblymember Robert Huff  
Department of Developmental Services