



California Association for the Retarded

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June 27, 2005

The Honorable S. Joseph Simitian, Chair
Senate Human Services Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**June 28, 2005 Hearing: Support for AB 1378 (Lieber) as amended 4-18-05
(Dealing with State Employees for Agnews Developmental Center Residents)**

Dear Senator Simitian:

The California Association for the Retarded (CAR) has taken a **support** position on **AB 1378 (Lieber)**, as amended April 18, 2005. This bill would authorize the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to provide for an orderly closure of Agnews Developmental Center by operating facilities, using employees to assist in the operation of facilities, and contracting for the use of the department's employees to provide services.

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.

Pursuant to provisions of existing law, DDS has submitted a plan to close Agnews Developmental Center by June 30, 2007. In order to ensure for the adequate care of current Agnews residents during this transition, it is important that Agnews employees be able to move with these consumers and oversee their care in the community. We ask for your aye vote in **support of AB 1378**.

Sincerely,

Marion Lieberman, President

cc: Members of the Senate Human Resources Committee
Assemblymember Sally Lieber, DDS