

# September 12, 2007 - ACTION ALERT

LETTER/FAXES/CALLS to GOVERNOR NEEDED

## VETO AB1427

Your advocacy is needed to oppose Assemblyman Krekorian's proposed AB1427. Under this legislation, programs eligible for up to \$7 million in rate increases would be limited to supported living services, supported employment services, in-home respite services, self-directed services and day services designed to provide service in the community – and would deny equal treatment to services chosen by those who prefer congregate settings.

This proposal could result in a two-tiered rate schedule, a two-tiered wage scale, and would set the system on the path of discrimination against services and consumer choices which the bill wants the state government to treat as unworthy of equal opportunity and equal support.

## **IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED**

This invidious proposal has passed the Legislature in spite of overwhelming testimony from large groups of parents and providers in the face of a smattering of support from unions and community activists. Senator Carole Migden stated on the Senate floor that the bill was focused on organizing workers and bringing unions into the mix. Senator Darrell Steinberg said that the system is too weak and needs the powerful partnership of unions.

If the system is weak it is because it is woefully underfunded – not because it needs unions. And staff turnover defeats adequate training when trained staff leave due to poor wages. Workers have a right to organize, but do not need the legislature to force unions on them.

As soon as possible – before the Governor makes his decision to sign or not, you and everyone you can contact in the interim are invited and urged to write individual letters, send faxes and e-mails, and make telephone calls to the Governor and seek his veto. A sample letter is attached. You are welcome to use it, paraphrase it, or make up your own.

Contact the Governor at [Tel.] (916) 445-2841, [FAX] (916) 445-4633, or e-mail thru his web site at <http://www.gov.ca.gov/>

Kindly provide the CAR office with a copy of your response to this action alert at:

California Association for the Retarded

1220 S Street, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95811

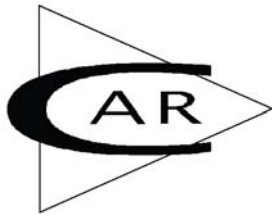
Telephone: (916) 498-1635

FAX: (916) 498-1385

e-mail: [carforchoice@aol.com](mailto:carforchoice@aol.com)

Thank you for your thoughtful and rapid response.

[Call Peter LeDoux for more information about AB1427: (916) 498-1635]



# California Association for the Retarded

1220 "S" Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95811

Phone: (916) 498-1635 Fax: (916) 498-1385

[www.carforchoice.org](http://www.carforchoice.org)

September 12, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor, State of California  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: OPPOSE AB1427 (as amended 8/1/7)

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The California Association for the Retarded is a state-wide organization that recognizes a wide range of disabilities among persons with mental retardation, and advocates for their right to choose from a full spectrum of services to meet their individually identified needs. We firmly **oppose AB1427** which would split the community of persons with developmental disabilities into two camps – one to be favored and the other to be shunted aside.

The bill's effect is contrary to consumers' right to individualized services and marginalizes consumers who choose services which are not on a pilot-approved program list of better-paid and -trained staff. The bill purposely leaves out such services as Work Activity Programs (WAPs), a service choice that continues to serve tens of thousands with multiple identified needs. Such a proven service choice should not be dismissed, along with the aspirations of those who choose it. This bill treats specially designated services to preferential funding while other legitimate service choices continue to be bound by cost containment measures.

Further, its supporters say the measure's intent is to help organize workers into unions, since the system is weak and needs union strength. If the system is weak it is due to woeful underfunding. Trained staff leave for better-paid jobs. AB1427 does not help, but only forces unions on the workers and the system. It is a poor policy decision and not the solution the system needs.

This proposal does nothing to alleviate the chronic problem of inadequate funding of services for people with mental retardation. We strongly urge you to **veto AB1427**. Should you share our vision of the true needs this population lives with, consider calling for increased funding for all services for persons with mental retardation – not just the hand picked services targeted by AB1427. Support true choice from among all services and fund them for success.

Sincerely,

Marion Lieberman  
President