



California Association for the Retarded

1220 "S" Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95814

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

www.carforchoice.org

June xx, 2007

The Honorable Elaine Alquist, Chair
And Members, Senate Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: OPPOSE AB1427 (Krekorian)

Dear Senator Alquist:

CAR is a statewide organization advocating for the right of persons with mental retardation to choose services that meet their needs from as broad an array of services as possible.

It is CAR's position that the Lanterman Act provides for services based on individually assessed need and choice; that needs vary enormously among the state's 220,000 service recipients; that true choice must come from the broadest array of service options possible, given the variety of needs; that the SB1270-mandated report's presumption that community-based work is the only option possible for a fulfilling life is merely an assertion – not a fact; that the choice to work in a congregate setting does result in a fulfilling life, and provides a community that is preferred by those who make that choice; and that preferential funding for community-based work services would establish a two-tier system that denigrates the choices of those who prefer congregate settings and threatens their ability to continue receiving services that satisfy them, and ultimately can so reduce the array of services as to make a mockery of the Lanterman promise of choice.

We appreciate the often difficult work you do to improve the lives of persons with mental retardation and urge you to consider, in your deliberations, the needs and choices of all service recipients when reviewing future service expansions and innovations.

Sincerely,

Marion Lieberman, President