

# 2024 Legislative and Policy Priorities

Bridget Kolakosky, Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs and

Verónica Bravo, Policy Analyst

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# 2024 Policy Priorities Review

As a reminder, this year we are focused on issues that came up in 2021, 2022 and 2023. We also voted to prioritize these issues in January:

- Health
- Home
- Work

# 2023 Bills Continuing in 2024

## Quick Review

- 1. SB 37 (Caballero)** Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act. This bill creates a rental assistance program We are co-sponsors of this bill.
  - Next step - Assembly policy committee hearings in March or April.
- 2. SB 483 (Cortese)** Pupil rights: prone restraint. This bill protects students with disabilities from being held face-down.
  - Next step - Assembly policy committees in March or April
- 3. AB 1147 (Addis)** Disability Equity and Accountability Act of 2023. This bill requires more data collection by DDS and the regional centers.
  - Next step – this bill has paused on the Senate floor
- 4. AB 222 (Arambula)** Civil Rights Dept – Californians with disabilities workgroup. This bill creates a new workgroup that would consider ways to better protect our community’s civil rights with new anti-discrimination laws.
  - Failed on 1/31/2024

# 2023 Bills Returning in 2024- Do We Still Want to Support?

## **SB 1384 (Dodd) Power Wheelchair Repair**

**What the bill does:** This bill allows wheelchair users to fix their chairs themselves by requiring the makers of wheelchairs to provide information, tools, and replacement parts to owners or other providers.

- This bill was SB 271 in 2023, we supported
- The Governor vetoed the bill in 2023

# 2023 Bills Returning in 2024 (Continued)

## SB 1443 (Jones) CA Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)

**What the bill does:** adds SCDD to the homelessness council. This is important because there is no disabilities agency to advise on homelessness issues for our community.

- Was SB 246 (Ochoa-Bogh) in 2023, we supported that bill
- Do we still want to support?

# 2023 Bill Seeking Budget in 2024

## **AB 447 (Arambula) Public postsecondary education: students with disabilities: inclusive college programs**

- Passed in 2023, we co-sponsored and are now working with the other sponsors of AB 447 to advise the Governor's team on what those centers should do.
- This year, Governor Newsom included \$2 million in K-12 school funding for Technical Assistance Centers to help students with developmental and intellectual disabilities transition to college.

# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Civil Rights #1

**Bill:** ACR 150 (Stephanie Nguyen) Developmental Disabilities Month - March

What this bill does: this is a resolution, it is not a bill, it simply recognizes the Month of March as Developmental Disabilities month.

SCDD celebrates this month by recognizing the importance of our community with various events and informational emails and social media.

**Position Recommended:** watch

# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Civil Rights #2

**Bill:** SB 1001 (Skinner) Death penalty: intellectually disabled persons

**What does bill do:** Not all adults with IDD were diagnosed as children. This bill is for people in prison who have been sentenced with the death penalty but have not been diagnosed with IDD. It allows someone to show, through evidence like a medical evaluation, testing, and testimony that they were intellectually disabled before the end of their developmental period.

**Why is this important?** This bill would protect individuals with an intellectual disability from the death penalty.

**Position Recommended:** Support

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# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Health #1

**Bill:** AB 1977 (Ta) Health care coverage: behavioral diagnoses

**What will bill do:** does not allow a healthcare plan to require a person who is already diagnosed with a developmental disability or autism to be re-evaluated to maintain healthcare coverage for their condition.

**Why this is important?** these conditions are for life, they do not change or go away, getting re-tested just creates a risk of losing important healthcare insurance.

**Position Recommended:** Support

# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Health #2

**Bill:** AB 2510 (Arambula) Dental care for people with developmental disabilities

**What the bill will do:** requires DDS to create a new regional center program in the to improve dental care for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. These new programs also must reduce the need for regional center consumers to receive dental treatment using sedation and general anesthesia.

**Why is this important?** Some people with IDD who need dental care must be sedated or receive anesthesia (puts them to sleep), but this is dangerous. Also, not all dentists are able to provide those services and this delays care. Delayed dental care means bad health outcomes. This bill would improve dental health.

**Position Recommended:** Support

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# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Education #1

**Bill:** AB 1885 (Addis) Student Success Completion Grant program

**What does bill do:** reduces the minimum required units for students in Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS) to receive Cal Grant assistance to 9 units. Students in DSPS who enroll in 9 units are considered full-time at 9 units but the Cal Grant definition of full-time is currently 12 units.

**Why is this important?** It would make qualifying for Cal Grant assistance more equitable by giving students with disabilities the same opportunity that students without disabilities have to apply for and receive grants. These grants would be approximately \$1,2000 a year.

**Position Recommended:** Support

# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Education #2

**Bill:** AB 1938 (Gallagher) Special education: inclusive practices and strategies

**What does bill do:** would clarify “inclusive practices and strategies to improve pupil outcomes” to mean “**placement in settings that provide full access to language and specialized services**” for children who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind. The bill would also require any discussion in the local educational agency setting to ensure feedback and participation of individuals and communities who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind.

**Position Recommended:** Watch

# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Education #3

**Bill:** AB 1914 (Grayson) Community colleges: providers of care for individuals with developmental disabilities: model curriculum

**What does bill do:** would develop a school plan to educate and prepare providers of care to persons with IDD.

**Why is this important?** There is a high turnover of direct service professionals and a shortage of staff. This will help improve skills and knowledge for individuals who provide care for people with developmental disabilities. But will it help raise one of the reasons for high turnover - the pay?

**Position Recommended:** LPPC Discussion - “Watch” for now

# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Education #4

**Bill:** AB 2821 (Grayson) Postsecondary education: students with disabilities

**What does bill do:** tracks and evaluates the cost of college programs for students with disabilities and creates a Disability Access and Compliance Training Program for personnel.

**Why it is important?** Currently, there is no standard training for faculty and staff on how to assist or provide accommodations to students with disabilities.

**Position Recommended:** Watch

# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Human Services #1

**Bill:** AB 2753 (Ortega) durable medical equipment and services

**What will it do:** requires health plans to include coverage of durable medical equipment, services and repair.

**Why is it important?** When health insurance plans do not pay for durable medical equipment (DME), people with disabilities are impacted the most because they use health equipment the most. Health equipment is too expensive without health insurance.

**Position Recommended:** Support

# 2024 Bill Recommendations- Human Services #2 (Transportation)

**Bill:** AB 2423 (Mathis) annual review of regional center transportation rates

**What the bill will do:** would require an annual review of transportation reimbursement rates to find out if the rates are enough to pay for transportation services to regional center consumers.

**Why is this important?** If the rates are not enough then there will be less transportation available. Low rates mean providers are not getting enough money to provide the service.

**Position Recommended:** Watch



# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Human Services #3

**Bill:** AB 1876 (Jackson) Developmental services: individual program plans and individual family service plans: remote meetings

**What will it do:** Allows meetings to be remote (video, like Zoom) for individual program plans (IPP) and individualized family service plans (IFSP).

**Position Recommended:** Support

\*DRC Co-Sponsored

# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Human Services #4

**Bill:** AB 1281 (Menjivar) Advancing Equity and Access in the Self-Determination Program Act

**What the bill will do:** requires statewide standardized processes and procedures for the Self-Determination Program by January 2026.

Why is this important? The Self-determination Program is not the same from one regional center to another. This bill will make sure the program meets expectations and consistency for the needs of individuals across the state. The bill will benefit individuals.

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**Position Recommended:** Support

# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Transportation (Health)

**Bill:** AB 2043 (Boerner) Medi-Cal: nonmedical and nonemergency medical transportation

**What the bill will do:** Establishes reimbursement rates for transportation provided by special public transportation providers (also known as paratransit)

**Why is this important?** If paratransit is providing trips but is not getting paid a minimum amount, there will be fewer providers willing to offer the service. **Will this create more transportation for our community or simply increase the reimbursement rate for the providers?**

**Position Recommended:** Watch

# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Public Safety (DMV) #1

**Bill:** AB 2002 (Sanchez) Vehicles: public safety: Blue Envelope Program

**What the bill will do:** if a person chooses, the DMV will put information in a blue “envelope” that includes the individual’s needs or requested accommodations. The individual can carry the envelope with them or keep it in a car. The purpose of the bill is to help with communication and accommodation between law enforcement and community members.

**Position Recommended:** LPPC Discussion

# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Public Safety (DMV) #2

**Bill:** AB 2289 (Low) Vehicles: parking placards for disabled veterans and persons with disabilities

**What the bill will do:** would add “licensed physical therapist” to list of people that can certify a disability - for DMV to issue disabled parking placards.

**Position Recommended:** LPPC Discussion

# 2024 Bill Recommendations

## Public Safety (DMV) #3

**Bill:** SB 1285 (Laird) Driver's licenses: disability identifier

**What the bill will do:** allows a person to voluntarily disclose they have a disability on application forms for a driver's license or identification card.

**Position Recommended:** LPPC Discussion

# Federal Update - H.R. 6405

## **H.R.6405 (Rep. Panetta D-CA- 20) Marriage Equality for Disabled Adults Act**

addresses a long-standing issue faced by persons with disabilities concerning marriage equality

**What the bill will do:** increase the federal asset limit for persons with disabilities from \$2,000 to \$10,000. For couples, the limit would be raised to \$20,000.

**Why is this important?** Without the increase, there is a disincentive for couples to get married. SSI penalizes individuals with disabilities enrolled if they have more than \$2,000 in a bank account. That is the maximum amount a person can have in the bank before the federal government rules that they are no longer eligible for SSI. **This means people have to choose between getting married or keeping their benefits.**

**Status:** in the Subcommittee on Health.

# Employment First Office Update

- The Health and Human Services Agency is focusing on doing the internal work to create the new office. They expect to begin hiring for the staff when the Office is due to be officially established, which is July 2024.
- In the meantime, SCDD has offered to provide resources and recommendations on how best to create the office.
- Also, DDS and HHS have established a Master Plan, we hope to ensure that the details and priorities of the Master Plan include the new Office



# Next Steps – Vote



- Entertain a motion to recommend that the Council adopt LPPC's recommendations as discussed.

THANK YOU!

