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Milton Marks Commission on California State  
Government Organization and Economy

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May 19, 2023

The Honorable Dawn Addis  
1021 O Street, Suite 5350  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1147**

Dear Assemblymember Addis,

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 1147, the measure you authored making various changes to the developmental disabilities system, seeking to ensure more equitable treatment of consumers.

In its 2023 report, *A System in Distress: Caring for Californians with Developmental Disabilities*, the Commission found that the state's developmental disability services system does not work equally for all who rely on its support. The Commission heard from hundreds of Californians who shared stories of difficulties navigating this complex system and accessing care for themselves or their loved ones. Their frustrations were backed by years of research that found disparities in access to services based on where a client lived or their racial or ethnic background.

The Commission issued several recommendations to address these systemic failures, including a number that are addressed by AB 1147. Specifically, the Commission called for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to identify a standard set of core services to be delivered by all regional centers, and to utilize technology to make it easier for consumers to find out what services are available. The Commission also recommended that regional centers use standard categories to track the race and ethnicity of clients receiving services so that disparities could be more easily identified. Additionally, the Commission recommended that DDS put forward a comprehensive project plan to modernize its data systems. The Commission also called for DDS to standardize the vendorization process and allow vendors to provide services across the regional center system. Finally, the Commission recommended that the state enhance support for regional center governing boards, including additional training and greater protection against retaliation.

AB 1147 would carry out these recommendations. For this reason, the Little Hoover Commission supports this bill. If I, the Commission, or our staff can provide any further assistance as this proposal moves through the legislative process, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava  
Chairman

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Pedro Nava, Chairman

Sean Varner, Vice Chairman

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