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April 15, 2019

Senator Jeff Stone
State Capitol, Room 4082
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 412 (Stone) – SUPPORT, SPONSOR

Honorable Senator Stone:

The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) represents the network of 21 non-profit regional centers that coordinate services for, and advocate on behalf of, well over 300,000 Californians with developmental disabilities.

On behalf of ARCA, I wish to express our support for, and sponsorship of SB 412, as well as our appreciation of your willingness to author this bill on behalf of our service system.

During the Great Recession, the developmental disabilities services system took over \$1 billion in cuts and funding reductions. Though our economy has rebounded, many of those cuts remain in place. Among them are the “Family Cost Participation Program,” requiring regional centers to pay for less respite, daycare, and camp than a child needs based on family income. Families are expected to make-up the difference. A separate, income-based fee program called the “Annual Family Program Fee” charges parents of children receiving other services.

These fees are, essentially, disability taxes. By repealing them, SB 412 removes an artificial barrier to accessing services. It is our privilege to advocate for the removal of these disability taxes by sponsoring SB 412. And it is an honor to have your support and authorship of this bill, which will help ensure better access to services. If you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Daniel Savino in our office at dsavino@arcanet.org or (916) 446-7961.

Sincerely,

/s/Amy Westling
Executive Director

Cc: Claire Marks, Fellow, Office of Senator Stone
Lavinia Johnson, Executive Director, Inland Regional Center