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## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

#### Senate Bill 1417 - Relating to the State Rehabilitation Council

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) does not have a position on Senate Bill 1417 that reduces the number of members on the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) from twenty-one to fifteen. However, we do offer comments

Groups identified to have representatives on the SRC have not been modified with the proposed reduction in the number of members who will serve on the Council. One member identified from each specific category totals thirteen, leaving only two additional members who may be individuals with disabilities. DCAB is concerned that when recruiting members from each category and from each county, the number of individuals with disabilities serving on the Council will also be reduced. The SRC represents a body whose primary goal is employment of individuals with disabilities. We do not see how a reduction in number will be possible and still ensure that a majority or fifty-one percent of the membership are individuals with disabilities. It is our sincere hope that there is a means to ensure that the interest and voice of people with disabilities are not under-represented or reduced when membership on the SRC is decreased to fifteen in the event this bill passes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara Fischlowitz-Leong* *Francine Wai*

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG  
Chairperson  
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director