



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Video: Assemblymember Frazier asks Budget Subcommittee for funding to expand employment opportunities for those with developmental disabilities <http://bit.ly/2FMNqhi>

Frazier announces membership of Assembly Select Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

SACRAMENTO – Assemblymember Jim Frazier (D-Discovery Bay) today announced the membership of the newly created Assembly Select Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, which he chairs.

“I am humbled by the overwhelming enthusiasm of my colleagues in the Assembly to serve on this committee and to support a community of Californians that historically has been underserved in the Legislature,” said Frazier, whose request to establish the Committee was recently approved by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon. “The membership is bipartisan and as diverse as California itself. I look forward to the Committee’s first meeting and digging into issues that confront those with disabilities in our state.”

In addition to Frazier, the Select Committee’s 10 members are Democrats Autumn Burke, Evan Low, Jose Medina, Kevin Mullin, Blanca E. Rubio and Shirley N. Weber and Republicans Heath Flora, Brian Maienschein, Chad Mayes and Marie Waldron.

Select committees do not hold hearings on pending legislation; they are informational only.

“What we are going to do with this Select Committee is hold hearings throughout the state that thoroughly examine the challenges and needs of the approximately 625,000 Californians with

I/DD, and take what we learn to formulate policy and craft future legislation,” said Frazier, who added he is hoping to hold the first Committee hearing as early as April. “We will also take look closely at the Lanterman Act and what the Legislature can do to help the Regional Centers provide the support and services the I/DD community deserves.”

The Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Act, established by legislation in 1977, declares that persons with developmental disabilities have the same legal rights and responsibilities guaranteed all other persons by federal and state constitutions and laws. It also mandates that Regional Centers, the nonprofits that contract with the Department of Developmental Services to provide support and services to the I/DD community around the state, advocate for and protect these rights.

"The State Council on Developmental Disabilities applauds the Assembly's focused leadership," said April Lopez, who chairs the Council. "The needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities span every aspect of society. Issues like childhood development, school, employment, housing, transportation, health care, and public safety impact every system. The systems are complex just as the needs are complex. This Select Committee will give the Assembly the ability to find real solutions for people who have faced historical injustices and are often hit the hardest by changes in the world. We enjoy our working relationship with Assemblymember Jim Frazier and have every confidence in his leadership."

“We applaud Assemblymember Frazier and Speaker Rendon for establishing the Select Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities,” added Susan Armiger, president and CEO of Easterseals Bay Area. “This committee will build on current initiatives to create more opportunities that support independence and lifelong inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their respective communities.”

Since taking office in 2012, Jim Frazier has made supporting Californians with special needs one of his top priorities in the Legislature.

“I thank the Speaker for recognizing the importance of having a committee in the Assembly that will look out for the needs a community of deserving individuals and am humbled to be chosen to chair the committee,” Frazier added.

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Assemblymember Frazier represents the 11th Assembly District, which includes the communities of Antioch, Bethel Island, Birds Landing, Brentwood, Byron, Collinsville, Discovery Bay, Fairfield, Isleton, Knightsen, Locke, Oakley, Pittsburg (partial), Rio Vista, Suisun City, Travis AFB, Vacaville and Walnut Grove.

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