

# SB 110: Crime Victims with Disabilities Act

Senator Carol Liu, 21<sup>st</sup> SD.

*As to be amended in the Assembly Public Safety Committee*

## An Invisible Epidemic

Crime against people with disabilities has been called an "invisible epidemic," comparable to domestic violence before society awakened to the horror and widespread extent of that crime.

Elders with disabilities including age-related disabilities, children with disabilities, homeless people with disabilities, and people with disabilities in care, incarceration, and treatment facilities are among those most often victimized. Women and men with disabilities are at high risk of sexual assault and domestic violence. Perpetrators are often caregivers.

Unclear law enforcement jurisdiction and lack of adequate police training often result in the criminals going free.

Society would not tolerate this level of violent crime against most other victims without demanding much more effective action.

## Summary

The Crime Victims with Disabilities Act of 2010 takes a variety of steps to prevent and investigate these crimes and to arrest and convict the perpetrators.

## Specifics

The bill includes these major provisions:

- Clarifies law enforcement jurisdiction by declaring that local police and, in some cases, state law enforcement agencies are concurrently responsible for investigating abuse and all other crimes against people with disabilities and elders.
- Upgrades police training concerning abuse and other crimes against people with disabilities.
- Makes reviewing suspicious deaths of people with disabilities part of the authority of any Elder or Child Death Review Team that a county chooses to establish.

- Requires the Department of Developmental Services to call local police to report crimes against people with disabilities in development centers and in regional center service providers' programs.
- Expands district attorneys' sexual assault training to include the special problems of investigating and prosecuting sexual assault of people with disabilities.
- Clarifies that the legally protected class of so-called "dependent adults" includes people with disabilities, regardless of the fact that most live independently.
- Assures that the state Sexual Assault Advisory Committee and Domestic Violence Advisory Council include representation of people with disabilities.
- Requires data collection on deaths of domestic violence victims with disabilities in the existing domestic violence data system.

## No New Costs or Local Mandates

The bill does not result in any new state or local government costs. It does not create any state mandated local programs.

## Sponsor

The Arc of California, the state's largest organization advocating for Californians with intellectual and all developmental disabilities and their families, is the sponsor of SB 110.

## Do you have questions? Comments? Would you like to support SB110?

### *Please Contact:*

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