



CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
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May 14, 2010

Honorable Jim Silva
California State Assembly
State Capitol Room 2170
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Support AB 2220 (Silva)

Dear Assemblyman Silva:

I am writing to you on behalf of the California Newspaper Publishers Association to express the Association's support of your AB 2220, as amended on April 5, which would expand the definition of local agency in the California Public Records Act (CPRA) to include quasi-public entities that are designated as regional centers pursuant to the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Act.

The state of California has delegated authority to these regional centers to provide special and unique services to California's disabled individuals and their families. These centers receive both state and federal funds to provide their services. In response to numerous requests for information by parents, newspapers and others interested in determining how taxpayer money is being used, the centers denied the requests asserting they were not local agencies as defined in the CPRA and are therefore not subject to its provisions.

The legislature has long recognized through open meeting and open record laws that when an entity, public or private, performs a governmental function the public has a right to information about the conduct of the public's business. AB 2220 furthers this bedrock principle of open government.

CNPA applauds your leadership in protecting the rights of the public to know what its government institutions are doing on its behalf. We look forward to working with you and your staff to obtain the Governor's signature on AB 2220.

Sincerely,

James W. Ewert,
CNPA Legal Counsel

cc: Ron Redfern, CNPA President, Publisher, President & CEO, The Press-Enterprise
Karlene Goller, CNPA Governmental Affairs Committee Chairwoman, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, Los Angeles Times
Jack Bates, CNPA Executive Director
Thomas W. Newton, CNPA General Counsel