



## SB 1052 (Gonzalez) Authorized Representatives

### SUMMARY

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Senate Bill (SB) 1052 would allow the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) to make “contingent” appointments of authorized representatives to assist people with disabilities in accessing services.

The bill would also clarify the process for SCDD to determine when an authorized representative is necessary and provide clear limits on the duration of appointments.

### EXISTING LAW

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Existing law establishes SCDD as an independent authority charged with promoting self-determination, independence, and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities (WIC 4520).

Existing law authorizes SCDD to appoint authorized representatives for people with developmental disabilities to ensure the protection of their civil rights and access to services (WIC 4541).

### BACKGROUND/PROBLEM

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Under current law, an Authorized Representative (AR) is tasked with assisting individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) to express their desires and in making decisions and advocating for their needs, preferences, and choices when the person with IDD has no parent, guardian, or conservator legally authorized to represent them and the person has either requested the

appointment of an authorized representative or if the person’s rights will not be protected or advocated for without a representative.<sup>1</sup>

In practical terms, the AR can assist the person on all matters related to regional centers, developing individual program plans (IPPs), and regional center-provided services, including signing the IPP.<sup>2</sup>

As federal immigration enforcement activities have increased, the risk of a person with IDD losing access to their support system if their current AR, involved family member or friend, or other caregiver is detained or deported has risen. This situation would leave a person with IDD without official representation and decision-making support in their IPPs and navigation of regional center services, which could result in gaps in essential services or individuals ending up in conservatorships – which are more restrictive and remove many of a person’s legal rights.

Current law does not expressly provide for contingent appointments, define a standard for determining when a person’s rights or interests cannot be properly protected or advocated without a representative, or establish any time limit or renewal requirement for these appointments.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=4541&lawCode=WIC](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=4541&lawCode=WIC)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Guide\\_to\\_Californias\\_Regional\\_Center\\_Services\\_System.pdf](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Guide_to_Californias_Regional_Center_Services_System.pdf)

The absence of these important specifications in current law undermines consistency, transparency, and alignment with person-centered and rights-based practices. Clear legislative authority in these areas is necessary to support predictable, accountable, and legally grounded implementation.

## **SOLUTION**

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SB 1052 will allow SCDD to make “contingent” appointments of authorized representatives to assist people with disabilities in accessing services.

Contingent appointment of an AR identifies a person who would represent the individual served by the regional center in the family’s absence. Contingent appointments can help families facing sudden separation plan for care for their loved ones.

SB 1052 will also improve statutory authority and transparency for the authorized representative process by clarifying SCDD’s process for investigating and determining when an authorized representative is necessary to protect the rights of a person with IDD and provide clear direction on the duration of appointments. Clarifying this authority ensures fair, predictable, and person-centered implementation.

## **SUPPORT**

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State Council on Developmental Disabilities (Sponsor)  
Integrated Community Collaborative (ICC) (Sponsor)  
ARC of California (Sponsor)  
Disability Voices United (Sponsor)

## **CONTACT**

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