



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

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May 8, 2025

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
710 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Recommendation of Support for Senate Bill 239

Dear Chair Hernandez and Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Disabilities Commission, we respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to formally support Senate Bill 239 (SB 239), which would enhance remote meeting access for individuals with disabilities and older adults by providing permanent flexibility under California's Brown Act.

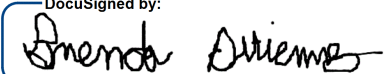
SB 239 addresses a critical barrier to civic engagement by ensuring that people who cannot attend meetings in person due to mobility limitations, chronic illness, immuno-compromised status, transportation challenges, or caregiving responsibilities can continue to participate fully in local public processes. While emergency orders during the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily removed these barriers, many of our community members have since lost that access.

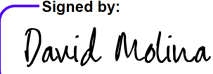
As a body charged with advising the Board on issues affecting people with disabilities, we have consistently heard from constituents who benefited from remote participation options. SB 239 would make it easier for commissions like ours, and others focused on aging and disability issues, to meet and operate effectively—ensuring that diverse voices remain part of decision-making.

Supporting SB 239 aligns with Santa Cruz County's commitment to equity, inclusion, and accessibility. It advances the goals of universal design and removes structural obstacles to civic participation—especially for those who have been historically marginalized or underrepresented. For these reasons, we request that the Board vote to endorse SB 239 and send a letter of support to our state legislative delegation.

Thank you for your time and consideration on behalf of the disabilities community in Santa Cruz County. Please feel free to reach out should you require any further information or clarification.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:

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Brenda Gutierrez Baeza
Commission on Disabilities Co-Chair

Signed by:

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David Molina
Commission on Disabilities Co-Chair

cc: Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission
Santa Cruz County In-Home Support Services Commission