

Developmentally disabled are promised more support by Legislature

SACRAMENTO

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- **Senate's GOP leader says the support for services and benefits is bipartisan**
- **"We must ... ensure that there is a sustainable community environment to support the developmentally disabled"**

Speaking before a crowd of several hundred people on the North Steps of the State Capitol on Wednesday, Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff, R-Diamond Bar, pledged to renew a commitment to Californians with developmental disabilities.

"We want to make sure that you can set your own goals, dream your own dreams and thrive in the neighborhoods where you want to live," Mr. Huff told the crowd in front of him. "To make this vision a reality, we must take steps to ensure that there is a sustainable community environment to support the developmentally disabled."

Mr. Huff pledged to work with his counterparts in the Legislature to pass three key bills that will help California's disabled residents to achieve their goals. Two of them, SB 638 and SB 639, are authored by Sen. Jeff Stone, R-Riverside County, while Mr. Huff is co-authoring a third measure with Sen. Jim Beall, D-San Jose, SB 490.

SB 638 would launch reforms to help give disabled citizens community services that are high-quality, sustainable, and transparent. It provides more money immediately for services like supported employment and residential programs.

SB 639 lays the framework for transitioning more individuals from outdated state developmental centers to community-based services. It also seeks to ensure that the money saved from shutting down these centers will be shifted to community services for the disabled.

SB 490 would make it easier for service providers to keep giving the disabled the help they need. It reforms state requirements that Mr. Huff says are wasting taxpayer dollars.

"We believe that every consumer deserves access to appropriate community housing, opportunities for employment, and day services that match his or her goals and abilities," says Mr. Huff. "California cannot claim to prioritize the developmentally disabled if it fails to support the community services that best meet their goals."
