

## **Testimony Statement on AB 2378:**

My name is David Lopez. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Assembly Bill 2378. I support this bill and believe that it will provide increased opportunities for people with disabilities to work and to earn a competitive wage. This bill demonstrates an investment in people with disabilities by providing employers with a tax credit incentive when they hire people with

disabilities. I am competitively employed and I have a disability. I have worked at Alta California Regional Center for 24 years providing advocacy support to other individuals with developmental disabilities as a member of the Executive Management team. My employer stands behind Competitive integrated Employment but there are many employers who don't have the full benefit of knowing the value of hiring a person with

disabilities. Providing an incentive...a tax credit...shines a light brightly on this possibility and supports increased job placement and opportunities for employers to discover firsthand these benefits.

Employment is the great equalizer. People with disabilities who are competitively employed have increased wages which provide opportunities to access better housing and medical care. By

supporting this bill, I believe it would allow people with developmental disabilities to be able to work and contribute to their community and to society in meaningful ways.

Please vote yes on AB 2378. Thank you.