

**Residential Rate Design Rulemaking
R.12-06-013 (Phase 2)
Qualifications of Henry J. Contreras
Appendix A to Testimony of Henry J. Contreras
For the Center for Accessible Technology
and the Greenlining Institute**

My name is Henry J. Contreras and I work for the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC), 1234 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. For the past 5 ½ years I have held a position as CFILC's Public Policy Director. We are a statewide membership organization of California's Independent Living Centers located throughout the state.

Our member centers provide core services that enable people with disabilities to live independently. These include, but are not limited to, peer counseling, personal attendant referrals, housing assistance, information and referrals, and Assistive Technology. CFILC also advocates on public policy issues; monitors local, state, and Federal legislation and ordinances; tracks state and Federal budget issues and initiatives; and provides legal and legislative research and writing services lending a disability community perspective to a myriad of public policy issues.

I hold a B.A. in Political Science, with an Emphasis in Political and Social Behavior conferred by Occidental College in Los Angeles, California. I also graduated with a Juris Doctor degree from the UCLA School of Law. I passed the California State Bar Examination and I am a member of the California State Bar (currently inactive).

Prior to my employment with CFILC, I held a number of senior legislative staff and consulting positions, including my most recent service as the Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel to the California Assembly Majority Floor Leader. Prior to that, I was the State Director for the Chair of the Assembly Rules Committee; the Chief of Staff to a Member of the House of Representatives; and the Principal Consultant to that same U.S. Representative when she was an Assembly Member prior to her election to Congress. For nearly 10 years, I served as a Deputy Legislative Counsel for the California Legislature's Legislative Counsel Bureau, which is the non-partisan legal office responsible for drafting legislation and researching and writing oral and written legal opinions. I also served for a 3-year period as Counsel to the Assembly Education and Higher Education Committees during a period of major reforms to the codes. In all of my prior positions, I was either directly responsible for, or supervised other staff, on utilities and commerce issues.

By virtue of acquiring a chronic pain disability and the ensuing mandatory disability retirement from state service, I have firsthand knowledge about what it is like to live and work as a person with a disability. This has afforded me insights and perspectives that I otherwise may have never developed about the daily challenges encountered by people with disabilities. My disability serves as a nexus between my prior professional experience and my current advocacy work for CFILC. Thus, I have an understanding of, and an appreciation for, how the decisions made by elected and appointed officials and policymakers at all levels of government affect the real world lives of people with disabilities.

I have experience testifying before legislative and congressional committee hearings. In addition, I have represented CFILC in addressing the California PUC in public comments on rate design issues in May of 2011, in the context of PG&E's 2011 GRC Phase 2 proceeding, in which I also worked with Disability Rights Advocates' witness Alicia Reyes to assist her in preparing testimony on the impacts that the utility's proposed changes to rate design would have on people with disabilities.