



May 5, 2010

The Honorable Bill Emmerson
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2300

Dear Mr. Emmerson:

The American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) supports AB 2300, a technical amendment that would allow the implementation of genetic counselor licensure as authorized in SB 1364 in 2000.

As the professional home to more than 1,400 board certified clinical and laboratory genetics professionals, ACMG is the only nationally recognized medical organization dedicated to improving health through the practice of medical genetics. At this time of unprecedented translation of genetic discoveries into healthcare, the recruitment and retention of qualified genetic counselors is critical to the public's health. In fact, 13% of ACMG Fellows—American Board of Medical Genetics certified genetics physicians and clinical laboratory directors—live in California and each is dependent upon genetic counselors to deliver safe and timely patient care.

Failure to pass AB 2300 and implement the genetic counselor licensure provision authorized in SB 1364, with an appropriate and sound scope of practice, will impede California's ability to recruit and retain appropriately qualified genetic counselors and hamper access to its citizens of critical genetic counseling services that would facilitate the use of new tests and treatments, many of which have been developed with public monies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Watson, PhD, FACMG
Executive Director

Cc: Kelly Ormond, MS, CGC
Stanford University

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