

April 15, 2009



The Honorable Joan Buchanan
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4167
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1307 - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Buchanan:

On behalf of the California Healthcare Institute (CHI), whose more than 250 members include our state's premier life sciences companies and academic research institutions, I am writing to support AB 1307, a bill that would direct the State Department of Public Health to genetically screen newborns for all of the medical conditions recommended by the American College of Medical Genetics.

Under California law, the State Department of Public Health already has an established fund – the Genetic Disease Testing Fund – for the purposes of screening multiple genetic disorders in newborns, including testing for fatty acid oxidation, amino acid, and organic acid disorders and congenital adrenal hyperplasia. This bill would expanding the scope of genetic screening in order to better identify newborns that are at risk for myriad metabolic, genetic, hormonal, and functional disorders. By identifying genetic disorders at birth, preventative measures stand a greater chance of treating the disorders so that they do not manifest further complications, including severe disability, mental retardation, and in extreme cases – death.

We are confident that AB 1307 will expand access to timely diagnosis of genetic disorders in infants thereby increasing the proper utilization of appropriate treatments. For these reasons, we strongly support AB 1307. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Pizarro', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sandra Pizarro
Vice President – State Government Affairs

CC: Chair & Members, Assembly Health Committee
Scott Bain, Assembly Health Committee
Assembly Republican Caucus