

April 13, 2010

The Honorable Mary Hayashi
Chair, Assembly Committee on Business, Professions, and Consumer Protection
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3013
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1937 (Fletcher) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Hayashi:

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 in support of AB 1937, a bill that would allow schools districts who voluntarily chose to undertake a school based immunization program to use other medical professionals administer influenza or other declared pandemic vaccines in schools. Under existing law, only school nurses and physicians can administer an immunizing agent in schools with parental consent.

This legislation would supplement the work of school nurses and physicians to specifically permit other licensed medical personnel, such as nurse practitioners, to assist with school based programs for these types of diseases. AB 1937 will have a positive impact on public health in California and will allow our school children to be better protected against infectious diseases, such as influenza.

CHI member companies are at the heart of the biomedical research and development that produces vaccinations that protect the public health during a time of influenza outbreak, such as the recent H1N1 pandemic. The biomedical research community aggressively tackled the problem of H1N1 and developed a safe vaccine quickly. However, our member company treatments are only effective when patients have access to them. This measure will go great lengths to ensure that school districts have the flexibility to implement rapid vaccination programs in the face of crisis, while ensuring that parents' rights are protected through the notification process. For these reasons, CHI strongly supports AB 1937.

Sincerely,



Sandra Pizarro
Vice President – State Government Affairs

CC: Chair & Members, Committee on Business, Professions, and Consumer Protection
The Honorable Nathan Fletcher
Assembly Republican Caucus