

April 14, 2010

The Honorable Elaine K. Alquist  
Chair, Senate Health Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1104 (Cedillo) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Alquist:

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 SB 1104, a bill that would require health care service plan contracts and health insurance policies to also provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes-related complications, including diabetic neuropathy.

There are currently 23.6 million Americans living with diabetes, or roughly 8 percent of the population. In California, health care service plan contracts and health insurance policies provide coverage for certain equipment, supplies, and medications for the treatment of diabetes. Unfortunately, many diabetics who experience complications, including diabetic neuropathy, have health care plans that do not cover the complications. Diabetic neuropathy affects roughly 20 percent of the diabetic population and accounts for 50 to 75 percent of all non-traumatic amputations in the United States each year.

CHI member companies are at the heart of the biomedical research that has led to discoveries to treat diabetic neuropathy and other complications from diabetes. These treatments, when administered after early detection, can prevent amputations. However, these treatments are only effective when patients have access to them. This measure will go great lengths to ensure that diabetics have access to comprehensive care for the management of their condition, including coverage for diabetes-related complications.

We strongly support SB 1104. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Sandra Pizarro  
Vice President – State Government Affairs

CC: Members, Senate Health Committee  
The Honorable Gil Cedillo  
Assembly Republican Caucus