

January 19, 2010

The Honorable Alex Padilla
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4038
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Resolution 33 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the California Healthcare Institute (CHI), whose more than 270 members include our state's premier biotechnology firms, medical device companies, pharmaceuticals, and academic research institutions, I am writing to support SR 33. This resolution would recognize the week of February 14, 2010 to February 20, 2010 as National Engineers Week in California.

California's biomedical industry employs over 271,000 Californians with an average wage of \$75,000 per year. CHI's member companies employ engineers engaged in the research and development of ground breaking therapies that will hopefully lead to the next generation of cures for a host of life threatening conditions, including cancer, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes and others. Our medical device companies engineer prosthetics, heart valves, stints, and other products that improve the quality of life for patients around the world. California is also home to various research tools companies, which engineer and manufacture the tools used for laboratory research.

President Obama recently announced an objective called "Educate to Innovate" in order to spark interest with American students in math and science education. Part of this objective is the creation of a National Lab Day to be held in May 2010 to link K-12 educators with volunteer scientists, mathematicians, and other administrative personnel to create real-world laboratory experiences in classrooms around the country.

CHI strongly supports the Educate to Innovate program as well as National Lab Day. We feel that SR 33 will complement these activities and hopefully encourage California's students to consider engineering as a worthwhile career pursuit. As such, we strongly support SR 33. 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sandra Pizarro
Vice President – State Government Affairs

cc: The Honorable Alex Padilla
Senate Republican Caucus