

March 19, 2013

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4016
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 58: Medical experiments: human subjects – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wieckowski:

On behalf of the California Healthcare Institute (CHI), the statewide public policy association representing the innovative life sciences sector – biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical device and diagnostics companies, venture capital firms, research universities and institutes and its 275,000 workers – I am writing in support of AB 58: Saving Lives Through ER Research.

Much medical research has been conducted in emergency rooms, leading to a number of breakthroughs in lifesaving techniques, including resuscitation from cardiac arrest, stabilizing uncontrolled seizures, improving CPR techniques, and controlling bleeding and shock in trauma patients. Medical experiments performed on human subjects requires consent of the patient, however, in many life and death situations obtaining consent is not possible. Under SB 160 (Watson), passed in 1997, experiments performed in life and death situations in which the patient could not consent were exempted.

SB 160 was passed with a sunset date, and already California has twice extended it. We applaud your efforts in AB 58 which will eliminate the sunset date, affirming California's commitment to allowing this vital research. Research done in emergency situations not only saves lives, but in the process gives researchers more knowledge on how to provide effective care for patients in future situations. Without AB 58, this critical research will come to a halt.

For these reasons, we strongly support AB 58.

Please feel free to contact me at 916-443-5576 or Bukowski@chi.org if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Eve Bukowski
Vice President, State Government Affairs

cc: Assembly Health Committee