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May 16, 2012

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CA Department of Public Health
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Re: **CCLHO SUPPORT** position on AB 2253 (Pan) Clinical laboratory test results: electronic conveyance

Dear Dr. Chapman:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) Board voted on May 2, 2012, at the CCLHO Semiannual Business meeting, to take a support position on AB 2253. Our recommendation is that the California Department of Public Health should take the CCLHO position into consideration in your analysis of the legislation.

Existing law authorizes the results of a clinical laboratory test performed at the request of a health care professional to be conveyed to the patient in electronic form if requested by the patient and if deemed most appropriate by the health care professional, except that existing law prohibits the conveyance by Internet posting or other electronic means of test results relating to HIV antibodies, the presence of hepatitis antigens, the abuse of drugs, and specified test results that reveal a malignancy.

This bill would authorize the conveyance by Internet posting or other electronic means of clinical laboratory test results related to HIV antibodies, the presence of hepatitis antigens, the abuse of drugs, and specified test results that reveal a malignancy, if requested by the patient, the means of conveyance is deemed most appropriate by the health care professional, and a health care professional has already discussed the results with the patient. This bill allows for the electronic transmission of these test results without the requirement for specific patient agreement. In particular, this bill would "regularize" the reporting of HIV disease by making it consistent with that of other communicable diseases. This bill would also help overcome obstacles to the management of individuals infected with HIV and the hepatitis virus, as well as the management and referral of patients seeking substance abuse recovery services.

As you are aware, CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now the California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, and commissions, as well as officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at wilma.wooten@sdcountry.ca.gov or 619-542-4181.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Wilma Wooten, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers