



May 19, 2014

Assembly Member Cheryl Brown

Attention: Amanda Saechao and Esther Jimenez, Legislative Aides

California State Capitol, Room 2196

Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX: 916-319-2147

RE: SUPPORT FOR YOUR BILL, AB 1898

Dear Assembly Member Brown:

The Board of Directors of the California Academy of Preventive Medicine has voted to support AB 1898. Thank you for introducing this useful bill, which would permit the reporting and communication of information of HIV co-infections with viral hepatitis or meningococci, among public health staff and between them and the care provider.

The California Academy of Preventive Medicine is the state medical specialty society for physicians in the field of public health and prevention. It includes physicians who are experts about HIV/AIDS including co-infections.

Current law (Section 121025 of the Health and Safety Code) limits reporting and disclosure of cases of HIV/AIDS co-infection to tuberculosis, syphilis, gonorrhea or chlamydia. AB 1898 will expand this provision to include hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and meningococcal infection. This expansion will ensure that public health agencies have access to data from health providers on individual diseases as well as co-infection with HIV.

Patients who have co-infections are the ones with the highest morbidity and mortality, and they require special care with complex coordination. Communication to and from the local health department would be helpful in managing these patients.

AB 1898 removes an obstacle to reporting and communication of an important aspect of many complex cases. It will help to assure that confidentiality laws regarding HIV are not construed so as to obstruct optimal medical care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald O. Lyman, M.D." in dark ink.

Donald O. Lyman, MD, DTPH, President
California Academy of Preventive Medicine

Contact: Donald.o.lyman@gmail.com

916-485-5880