



P.O. Box 8506  
Redlands, CA 92375  
preventivemed@aol.com

September 30, 2013

Hon. Governor Edmund "Jerry" G. Brown, Jr.  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
FAX: 916-558-3160

**RE: URGE SIGNATURE FOR AB 446 (MITCHELL)**

Dear Governor Brown:

**The Board of Directors of the California Academy of Preventive Medicine (CAPM) urges you to sign AB 446 (Hall).** CAPM is the state medical specialty society for physicians in the practice of public health and prevention. Our position is based on professional expertise, as our membership includes public health officials at the state and local level responsible for prevention and control of HIV, and experts in HIV testing.

We are concerned that some 30-50,000 Californians are unaware of being infected. Both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommend universal opt-out HIV screening of the entire adolescent and adult populations. AB 446 will make it possible to approach this goal, by mandating the offering by primary care providers of HIV testing of all persons except children, when blood is to be drawn for other tests. A similar requirement already in effect for pregnant women in California has practically eliminated perinatal infections as well as identifying and directing to treatment pregnant women who were unaware of being infected. A similar requirement for adults and adolescents in New York state has resulted in a significant increase in HIV testing and discovery of new cases.

By identifying thousands of unsuspected infections, and entering these persons into treatment as well as encouraging them to adopt safer behaviors, we can almost entirely eliminate their infectiousness. The entire HIV epidemic in California can at long last be controlled. The health status of those persons can also be improved, and AIDS-related critical care expenses can be prevented by earlier treatment and avoidance of progression of HIV infection to AIDS.

We also favor the bill's post-test counseling requirement, and the ability to post results on the Internet. We believe that this bill will reduce state costs in the long run by preventing cases and reducing medical expenses.

Sincerely,

*Donald O. Lyman, M.D.*

Donald O. Lyman, MD, DTPH, President, CAPM

Contact (mobile): 916-468-2981

Personal e-mail: [saclymans@comcast.net](mailto:saclymans@comcast.net)