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June 20, 2013

Assembly Member Tom Ammiano

Attention: Wendy Hill, Sr. Legislative Aide (wendy.hill@asm.ca.gov)

California State Capitol, Room 3146

Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX: 916-319-2117; Voice: 916-319-2017

RE: CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR YOUR BILL, AB336 (AMMIANO)

Dear Assembly Member Ammiano:

The California Academy of Preventive Medicine (CAPM) is pleased to announce our continued support for your bill, AB 336, which was recently endorsed by our Board. Our Academy is the state medical specialty society for physicians practicing in the fields of public health and preventive medicine. While we are disappointed that the amended version will still permit condoms to be used as evidence of prostitution under some circumstances, the requirement for a special in-camera hearing before that can be done is a step forward for prevention and public health.

We were dismayed to learn that condom possession has been utilized as supporting evidence for prostitution convictions. Public health physicians have been working hard to urge condom use by high-risk individuals such as sex workers. It is our mission to reduce the spread of HIV, syphilis, and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). As long as prostitution exists, condom use is essential to reduce its contribution to the spread of HIV and other STDs.

We are concerned that the practice by district attorneys of using condom possession as supporting evidence for prosecution on prostitution charges will undo our efforts and reduce the use of condoms by sex workers. The prostitutes sampled by Human Rights Watch noted that if they carry enough condoms, they increase their risk of arrest and conviction. The other choice, to carry none or an insufficient number, raises their own and partners' risk of HIV and other STDs. The lack of condom use can increase these infections among sex workers, who in turn will infect clients and indirectly increase the infections in the general community.

In summary, CAPM believes that AB 336 is a helpful public health measure. **Please assure that the California Academy of Preventive Medicine is listed as a supporter of AB 336, by any further committee or floor analysts. If there are future changes in the bill wording, please keep us informed so we can reassess and reaffirm support in that event.**

Sincerely,

Donald O. Lyman, M.D., DTPH, President, CAPM