



BROWN
Alpert Medical School

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE

Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island

Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Via email rep-mcentee@rilegislature.gov

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Re: Oppose House Bill 5147 (Genetic Counselor Licensure) Unless Amended

Dear Representative McEntee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Society of Pathologists, I am writing to oppose House Bill 5147 unless such bill is amended.

House Bill 5147 authorizes and empowers genetic counselors to "interpret complex genetic test results." (Page 2, line 23). The interpretation of genetic test results is the practice of medicine. Genetic counselors do not have this scope of practice authority to "interpret" genetic test results in any other state. Genetic counselors are able to do the following, inter alia, in their scope:

- integrate genetic laboratory test results and other diagnostic studies with personal and family medical history to assess and communicate risk factors for genetic/medical conditions'
- explain the clinical implications of genetic laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies and their results.

The "interpretation" of genetic tests is now a common clinical component in cancer diagnosis and treatment and in other serious health conditions, including COVID19. Complex genetic test results are diagnostically evaluated by physicians to determine optimal therapeutic selections and provide prognostic insight into the clinical status of patients. Many states have conferred licensure status upon genetic counselors, which we support; but all other states have, in formulating licensure for these professionals, not included "interpretation of complex genetic tests" which constitutes the practices of medicine, for which genetic counselors are not licensed. Please also note, this clinical "interpretation" provision of genetic tests, as provided in HB 5147, is inconsistent with national scope standards for these professionals.

Accordingly, we oppose the bill, unless amended, page 2 line 23, as follows:

- ~~interpret complex~~ integrate genetic test results and other diagnostic studies with personal and family medical history to assess and communicate risk factors for genetic/medical conditions!

Please feel free to reach out to Barry Ziman, College of American Pathologists if you have any questions (bziman@cap.org/ 202-236-0567). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



L. Corey Hanley, MD, FCAP

President, Rhode Island Society of Pathologists

cc: Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chair, House Corporations Committee
Steven R. DeToy, Rhode Island Medical Society
Barry R. Ziman, College of American Pathologists