

New Mexico Society of Pathologists

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February 20, 2015

Honorable Zachary J. Cook
New Mexico House of Representatives
Capitol Building
Room #412C
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Support for House Bill 369 "Informed Consent for Genetic Testing"

Dear Representative Cook:

I am writing to you on behalf of the New Mexico Society of Pathologists (NMSP) in support of House Bill 369 which excludes laboratories from informed consent requirements for genetic testing conducted pursuant to a written order from a health care provider.

Genetic testing has become an integral part of patient care, particularly in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The requirement that laboratories obtain a separate informed consent for medically necessary genetic testing is often burdensome to the laboratory. Furthermore, the requirement can result in delays in diagnosis and treatment. Removing barriers to genetic testing is integral to providing quality patient care.

For these reasons, the NMSP fully supports the enactment of House Bill 369.

Sincerely,


Scott Otteson, MD, FCAP
State Issue Advisor, New Mexico Society of Pathologists

Cc: Barry Ziman, Director, Legislation and Political Action, College of American Pathologists