



College of American Pathologists

NEWS RELEASE

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College Announces Revision in its Position on State Legislation Requiring Licensure of Laboratory Personnel

Washington, DC— The College of American Pathologists (CAP) today announced that it has revised its position on state legislation requiring licensure for clinical laboratory personnel, and outlined model criteria that will guide its decisions on whether to support or oppose licensure legislation introduced in the states.

“CAP recognizes the critical role that all members of the clinical laboratory team have in delivering quality laboratory medicine and patient care, and by making this announcement today, is reaffirming its support for its clinical laboratory partners who desire to raise the standards of their profession through state licensure,” said CAP President-Elect Stephen Bauer, MD, FCAP.

For the last several years, the CAP, in partnership with State Pathology societies, has opposed licensure bills introduced in the states.

The College had been critical of the legislative language in many state licensure bills, stating they would exacerbate workforce shortages by eliminating on-the-job training as a pathway to employment, create conflict within the laboratory over scope of work between physicians and non-physicians, and create an overly complex and regimented personnel classification scheme that would potentially undermine the authority of the laboratory director to select the most appropriate staffing for their laboratory.

“Today, the CAP is going beyond raising objections to these bills and is announcing specific modifications that, if incorporated into future state licensure bills, would result in the CAP rescinding its opposition,” Bauer said.

The CAP model criteria includes:

- support for state licensure of medical technologists and technicians with a defined scope of work;
- support for the creation of limited specialty licenses for personnel who perform specialty services in the laboratory;
- minimum educational standards for each licensure category;

- clarification that all clinical laboratory personnel work under the supervision, control and direction of the laboratory director;
- Incorporate definition of medical independent judgment that clearly establishes that in the laboratory, pathologists alone make independent medical judgments in the diagnosis and treatment related to clinical laboratory tests;
- balanced representation on laboratory licensing boards from all members of the laboratory team;
- restrictions on the authority of the state licensing board to modify and expand licensing requirements provided by state statute.

The CAP will continue to collaborate with state pathology societies on specific bills, and while it will not oppose bills that meet its model criteria, it will not impede any state pathology society from seeking other modifications it deems appropriate.

“We hope today’s announcement will put the laboratory community on the path to resolving this divisive issue so that the community can work together more constructively to address the challenges facing laboratory medicine,” Bauer said.

The College of American Pathologists is a medical society of 17,000 physician members that advocates for high quality and cost effective medical care, and serves the laboratory community throughout the world. Headquartered in Northfield, IL, it is the world’s largest association composed exclusively of pathologists and is widely considered the leader in laboratory quality assurance.

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