



July 19, 2013

The Honorable Ed Hernandez
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 493 (Hernandez)
CMA Position: Neutral as proposed to be amended

Dear Senator Hernandez:

The California Medical Association (CMA), representing more than 37,000 physician members, has moved from and oppose to a neutral position on SB 493 (Hernandez) which, as introduced, would have expanded the scope of practice for pharmacists to include administering drugs and biological products that have been ordered by a prescriber and expanded other functions pharmacists are authorized to perform. These functions include, among other things, the furnishing of specified drugs including prescription smoking-cessation drugs; ordering and interpreting tests for the purpose of monitoring and managing the efficacy and toxicity of drug therapies, and to independently initiate and administer routine vaccinations. The introduced version of the bill also specified additional functions that may be performed by an advanced practice pharmacist, including performing physical assessments, and certain other functions.

The California Medical Association thanks you for your thoughtful consideration and acceptance of numerous amendments that ultimately resulted in a bill that has the potential to improve access to vaccines for children and access to nicotine based smoking cessation products for adults seeking to end their addiction to tobacco products.

The bill as proposed to be amended also enables pharmacists, with the appropriate education and training, to attain an Advance Practice Pharmacist designation. This will help improve the communication and coordination between the patient, their physician and their pharmacists.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (916) 444-5532 or jthomas@cmanet.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juan D. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Juan Thomas,
Associate Director
Center for Governmental Relations, California Medical Association

Cc: Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla, Chair, Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee
Members of Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee
Sarah Huchel, Consultant, Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee
Ted Blanchard, Assembly Republican Caucus