

Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative Update

April 26, 2010

Dear Colleagues:

I want to take a moment to let you know that, despite a setback last week in the Legislature, our Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative (CPEI) continues to be the department's highest priority.

Last Thursday, Senate Bill 1111, authored by Senator Negrete McLeod and sponsored by the Department, failed to make it out of committee. SB 1111 was an important component of CPEI, and we were disappointed and perplexed that the committee didn't approve it, given the clear need for legislative reform in this area. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger also expressed his disappointment. Senator Negrete McLeod stood alone in her efforts to provide the department with the necessary authority to quickly and effectively remove from practice those licensees who have harmed patients. We are grateful for her efforts.

While this was a disappointment, it is by no means the end of our efforts. We will continue to move forward, implementing process improvement, staff development, and performance measures, and adding enforcement resources to meet our goals. We will also urge and work with our boards to adopt regulatory language that provides authority for board executive officers to quickly investigate and prosecute licensees who violate the law.

Through your willingness to change, your hard work, and your perseverance, we have already made significant progress toward reforming our enforcement programs to better protect Californians from the most dangerous health care practitioners.

We are committed to seeing this important effort through to the end. With your continued help and support, I'm confident we will overcome all obstacles and challenges to meet our goal of improving consumer protection.

As always, thank you for your efforts and your commitment to consumer protection.

Best regards,

-Brian