



**February 11, 2014**

Assembly Member Angelica Jimenez  
State House Box 098  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0098

Re: **Support for Assembly Bill 431**

Dear Assembly Member Jimenez:

It is our shared hope that by unlocking the genetic basis for cancer, and other diseases, we can offer patients new treatments and life saving cures. To that end, we also jointly affirm that the medical expertise of pathologists can help in ensuring that patients benefit from advances in medical science that have led to targeted therapies based upon discernment of an individual patient's genetic basis for disease. While as physicians and advocates we push forward advances in medical science, we also seek to ensure that all patients, including those with cancer, receive all medically necessary laboratory and pathology testing to diagnose and treat their illness to the best of our current medical knowledge.

The nascent development of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) offers both opportunities and challenges for health care. We jointly believe that the role of pathologists in ACOs is critical to ensuring that laboratory and pathology testing is availed in optimal ways to ensure that every patient, especially those with cancer, benefit from the best possible treatment and health outcomes. Given that the very purpose of ACOs is to promote clinical collaboration for optimal quality and health outcomes, in consultation with the patient, we believe ACO quality and value is maximized when a pathologist medical director of the clinical laboratory, serving the ACO, is directly involved with the development of any testing protocols or algorithms upon which the ACO utilizes pathology and laboratory services.

For these reasons, we jointly affirm support for model state legislation to require ACOs to establish and have benefit of clinical laboratory advisory boards, with the requisite participation of the pathologist medical director of the laboratory providing services to the

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ACO. These boards can help the ACO identify and eliminate unnecessary testing while making sure that patients enrolled in the ACO receive all medically necessary pathology and laboratory tests. Such boards have demonstrated compelling medical value at nationally esteemed health care centers that were the basis for federal development and promotion of the ACO practice paradigm. Accordingly, we urge enactment of legislation to require ACO adoption of these advisory boards in the best interest of patient care.

The College of American Pathologists

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

The National Brain Tumor Society

The American Society of Breast Disease

The Lung Cancer Alliance