



ASSOCIATION FOR MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY
Education. Innovation & Improved Patient Care. Advocacy.
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August 2, 2016

The Honorable John Barrasso
347 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

On behalf of the Association for Molecular Pathology, I am writing to thank you for introducing S. 2978, the Protect Continuing Physician Education and Patient Care Act. The Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) is an international medical and professional association representing approximately 2,300 physicians, doctoral scientists, and medical technologists who perform or are involved with laboratory testing based on knowledge derived from molecular biology, genetics, and genomics. Membership includes professionals from the government, academic medicine, clinical testing laboratories, and the in vitro diagnostics (IVD) industry.

AMP is fully supportive of this bill which would clarify that peer-reviewed journals, journal reprints, journal supplements, and medical textbooks are excluded from manufacturer reporting requirements under the Sunshine Act. It is essential that physicians have access to the most relevant, latest emerging scientific knowledge associated with health care delivery. This legislation ensures that physicians' access to the highest quality publications in the world will remain unobstructed. Medical textbooks, consults, conference reports, journal articles and their reprints are written and published for the purpose of building upon and improving clinical understanding. These universally respected publications not only meet the rigorous standards of the highest quality peer-review and editing, but also provide impartial and independent information that provides direct benefit to patients through improved care. We believe the materials listed above are essential components to a physician's continuing medical education.

Further, AMP is supportive of this bill because it would exempt indirect payments or transfers of value to physicians for speaking at or preparing materials for "educational events" for physicians and other healthcare professionals that do not promote covered drugs, devices, biologicals, or medical supplies, as well as payments or transfers of value that are solely intended to provide medical education to physicians. A major strategic area of AMP is education, including live, online, career development events. The goal of AMP education is to provide high quality molecular pathology educational offerings based on best science. Excellence in educational programming for target audiences requires high quality content, organizers, speakers, delivery, and evaluations. Without support, AMP would not be able to provide the CME events that our membership requires to maintain their licensure and certifications and to stay on the cutting edge of our field.

Thank you again for championing this legislation and we look forward to supporting your efforts to move this legislation through the Senate. Please do not hesitate to contact Tara Burke at tburke@amp.org if we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Hill, MD, PhD
AMP President