



LEGISLATIVE ALERT

April 10, 2001

TO: CAA MEMBERS

FROM: Chris Piper, Legislative & Agency Relations Committee Chair
David A. Nevins, President
Joe Yocca, Legislative Advocate

RE: SB 1174

SB 1174 by Senator Polanco and sponsored by the California Ambulance Association will be heard in the Senate Business and Professions Committee on **April 24, 2001**.

It is **extremely important** that you send a **letter seeking their support of SB 1174** to **members of the Committee** prior to the hearing. You should also contact your local EMS Agency, Fire Departments and Hospitals and ask them to send letters of support as well.

Attached is a roster of the members of the Senate Business and Professions Committee, a sample letter and a fact page. In addition to sending a letter to each member of the committee we ask that you call the members office and request to be officially noted as in support of SB 1174.

Please be sure to **copy the CAA** with any correspondence you send to the committee members.

Thanks for your time and attention to this important request.

Senate Business and Professions Committee

[ON YOUR COMPANY LETTER HEAD]

[Date]

Honorable [FIRST & LAST NAME OF SENATOR]
Member of Senate Business & Professions Committee
State Capitol, Room [Senators room number]
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1174 - Support Letter

Dear Senator [LAST NAME]:

I am writing today in my capacity as [ENTER YOUR TITLE] of [ENTER THE NAME OF YOUR AMBULANCE COMPANY] requesting your support of SB 1174.

As you are aware, under current California law, no person shall perform a clinical laboratory test or examination classified as waived under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA) unless the clinical laboratory test or examination is performed under the overall operation and administration of a laboratory director who is licensed by the state as a physician or surgeon. SB 1174 would exempt certified medical technicians providing basic life support services or advanced support services that perform blood glucose tests from this current law that requires costly and unneeded oversight by a California licensed physician or surgeon.

Administration of a blood glucose test can relay quickly and accurately a patient's sugar level and assists the EMT or Paramedic in determining an appropriate course of treatment, including the administration of glucose (50% dextrose) intravenously to reverse the effects of hypoglycemia. Instead of preserving the health, safety and general welfare of the public, excessive oversight requirements cause an undue hardship on providers of emergency medical services. EMS providers will be forced to cease giving this test even though the blood glucose test is a valuable screening tool used in the field to help assess patients and it is the only laboratory test, waived or non-waived that they perform.

Existing law in California exempts day care workers who need to use the blood glucose test on minor children in their care from CLIA oversight. These day care workers are only required to have a total of 15 hours of training in first aid, CPR and Preventive Health versus Paramedics who must have a minimum of 1,032 hours of training. If a day care worker detected a significant problem, they could conceivably call 9-1-1 for assistance. The absurdity of this scenario is that a day care worker can do this test, but the Paramedic responding to a 9-1-1 call may, because of the excessive laboratory testing and oversight requirements, be prohibited from performing the same test.

In light of the dire practical consequences on the state EMS systems that will undoubtedly ensue if the current law is not amended regarding waived tests, I strongly urge you and your colleagues in the legislature to adopt SB 1174 and forward to Governor Davis for enactment.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]

[TYPE YOUR NAME]
[TYPE YOUR TITLE]

CC: California Ambulance Association

SB 1174 FACT SHEET

- ✚ SB 1174 would exempt certified medical technicians providing basic life support services or advanced support services that perform blood glucose tests from current law that requires costly and unneeded oversight by a California licensed physician or surgeon.
- ✚ Administration of a blood glucose test can relay quickly and accurately a patient's sugar level and assists the EMT or Paramedic in determining an appropriate course of treatment, including the administration of glucose (50% dextrose) intravenously to reverse the effects of hypoglycemia. The administration of glucose by Paramedics, in the absence of the test, can cause irreparable patient harm, especially in patients who have had a stroke.
- ✚ Since 1988, EMS providers who administer the blood glucose test have fallen under CLIA federal regulations that require the provider to obtain a certificate of waiver. This waiver is granted for certain tests which meet the following specifications: Test systems are simple laboratory examinations and procedures which 1) Are cleared by FDA for home use; 2) Employ methodologies that are so simple and accurate as to render the likelihood of erroneous results negligible; or 3) Pose no reasonable risk of harm to the patient if the test is performed incorrectly. Further, Federal CLIA regulations require providers who administer this test to meet minimum requirements for obtaining a certificate of waiver. Federal requirements do not require the provider to retain the services of a medical director or a laboratory technical consultant precisely because this waived test has been determined to meet specifications that do not require that level of supervision.
- ✚ Existing law in California exempts day care workers who need to use the blood glucose test on minor children in their care from CLIA oversight. These day care workers are only required to have a total of 15 hours of training in first aid, CPR and Preventive Health versus Paramedics who must have a minimum of 1,032 hours of training.
- ✚ In light of the dire practical consequences on the state EMS systems that will undoubtedly ensue if the current law is not amended regarding waived tests, the CAA strongly urges the legislature to adopt SB 1174 and forward to Governor Davis for enactment.