

October 15, 2013

EAIC
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

To Economic Affairs Committee of Montana,

As the question of state licensure for health professionals including my own, Medical Laboratory Science, comes into question I ask that you take into consideration this letter. I am a new professional graduating in 2008 of the Medical Laboratory Science program at the University of North Dakota Grand Forks in conjunction with Montana State University. Licensure is vital to our profession. Healthcare is an ever-changing profession and not only are laboratorians trained for years in associating lab results with disease states and health conditions, but we take this information and use it with new instrumentation and technology. This information gives doctors and nurses the best and most accurate results to make safe beneficial healthcare decisions. We not only take on this responsibility but we constantly learn new and changing techniques, methodologies, and ways to improve our processes. We provide this as a team with licensed nurses and physicians. Our healthcare is too important to “dumb it down” by retiring the already high standard of professional licensure we have created. Please consider my words as a new professional and ASCLS board member as well as the professional associations who support our licensure.

American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science states, “Laboratory professionals must provide accurate, specific and reliable information using state-of-the-art technology to facilitate evidence-based patient care decisions. The laboratory information, they provide, has a direct impact on patient diagnosis, treatment, health maintenance, safety, length of stay, as well as resource utilization, and patient satisfaction. Thus, laboratory personnel licensure is essential to protect the public from substandard laboratory services and possibly misleading information, by assuring that only adequately educated and qualified individuals perform testing.”

American Society for Clinical Pathology states, “Due to the complexity of laboratory medicine and its importance in quality patient care, it is imperative that medical laboratory personnel possess the qualifications necessary to ensure their professional competence. Licensure and certification programs not only set minimum standards for medical laboratory personnel working in clinical laboratories; they also help ensure quality laboratory testing and proper patient care.”

Please support state licensure and the equally high quality of healthcare it promotes.

Sincerely,
Cara Bushmaker, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}