



POLICY & ACTION FROM CONSUMER REPORTS

April 28, 2014

Susan Bonilla, Chair  
Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Regarding: Opposition AB 2346 (Gonzales)

Dear Chairwoman Bonilla:

Consumers Union's Safe Patient Project (SPP), a nationwide campaign, organizes patient safety advocates from across the state of California on issues relating to hospital and physician safety. Our California Safe Patient Network works on issues related to the Medical Board of California, including issues related to substance abusing physicians.

AB 2346 (Gonzales) would create a program that secretly diverts drug and alcohol addicted physicians from a public disciplinary track into a voluntary monitoring program, where physician participation and possible impairment are kept secret from both the MBC and patients. The bill fails to protect patients from physicians whose practice of medicine may be compromised due to substance abuse. In 2012 Consumers Union SPP opposed SB 1483 (Steinberg) a similarly misguided effort.

We urge your no vote on A.B. 2346 (Gonzales).

Please contact feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa McGiffert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa McGiffert  
Director  
Consumers Union Safe Patient Project  
[www.SafePatientProject.org](http://www.SafePatientProject.org)  
[lmcgiffert@consumer.org](mailto:lmcgiffert@consumer.org)  
512-477-4431 ext 115

CC:

Betsy Imholz, Director of Special Projects, Consumers Union  
Members: Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee  
Assembly Member Gonzales  
Sarah Huchel