



POLICY & ACTION FROM CONSUMER REPORTS

March 26, 2014

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

Regarding: Support AB 1886

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 safety (hospital-acquired infections and medical errors) and physician safety. Our California Safe Patient Network ("CA Network") is working on issues related to the Medical Board of California. AB 1886 (Eggman) would remove arbitrary and unwarranted time limits on the availability to patients of important information regarding California physicians. Currently, there is a 10-year time limitation imposed on physician information posted on the MBC website regarding, among other things, temporary restraining orders, interim suspension orders, malpractice judgments, and hospital disciplinary actions that resulted in termination or revocation of licenses. *Now, the MBC is required to remove this important information from its website after it has been up for 10 years; if this bill becomes law, the information could remain on the MBC website indefinitely.* We urge your yes vote on A.B. 1886 (Eggman) when it comes before you in the Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee.

According to Business and Professions Code Section 2001.1, the Medical Board's highest policy priority is to protect the public. One of the most important ways the Medical Board can do that is by accurately displaying a doctor's history of malpractice judgments and disciplinary actions. This allows the consumers of California to make better informed choices when entrusting their health and well-being to a physician.

SB 1886 (Eggman) would allow important information to remain publicly available to patients, to inform their choices regarding physicians. This information may always be of interest and concern to patients who have a right to access without arbitrary time limitations. We urge your yes vote on this bill.

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
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CC:

Betsy Imholz, Director of Special Projects, Consumers Union
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