



LEGISLATIVE REPORT #247

Scope of practice Bills Amended - CMA Moving to Neutral on Pharmacist Bill but Remains Opposed to NP and Optometry Bills

July 15, 2013: The three scope of practice bills which we have been opposing are currently set to be heard on August 6th in the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. The author's office has released proposed amendments for each of the bills. I have included those amendments in the email containing this report.

As you recall, the three bills (SB 491 - NPs, SB 492 - Optometry, and SB 493 - Pharmacists), are all authored by Senator Ed Hernandez. CSPA has taken an oppose position on all three but we have been focusing our advocacy efforts on the NP and optometry bills. CMA has been negotiating with the proponents of the various bills but has only been making progress on the pharmacist bill.

With the proposed amendments described below for the pharmacist bill, CMA plans to move to a neutral position.

The proposed amendments for the NP bill primarily do two things:

- * Allow NP independent practice status when practicing in one of the following:
- * A clinic, health facility, or county medical facility.
- * A medical group, defined as one or more prescriber practicing under a single professional corporation or license, including a medical group or risk bearing organization.

- * An Accountable Care Organization.
- * An independent practice association.
- * Allow an NP independent practice status if they have practiced under physician supervision for at least two years and holds a national certification as an NP from a national certifying body recognized by the nursing board.

CMA and the other medical specialties remain in opposition to these proposed amendments.

The proposed amendments for the optometry bill actually further expand the scope of practice for optometrists than what is outlined in the current version of the bill and would allow them to perform "advanced procedures" including injections to treat conditions outlined in the bill excluding intra-orbital injections. The proposed amendments provide for optometrists to perform numerous elective cosmetic procedures. The bill continues to allow optometrists to test for and diagnose diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and hypercholesterolemia. CMA remains strongly opposed to this bill. Negotiations between the optometrists and ophthalmologists have broken down and the ophthalmologists are now opposed to this bill.

The proposed amendments for the pharmacist bill would address CMA's remaining concerns over the ability for a pharmacist to furnish smoking cessation drugs. CMA was concerned this would allow a pharmacist to furnish some psychotropic drugs which can be used for smoking cessation. The proposed amendments would limit a pharmacist to furnishing nicotine replacement products.

> [View SB 491 Proposed Amendments | Nurse Practitioner Bill | July 15, 2013](#)

> [View SB 492 Proposed Amendments | Optometry Bill | July 15, 2013](#)

> [View SB 493 Proposed Amendments | Pharmacist Bill | July 15, 2013](#)