

June 28, 2005

Senator Deborah Ortiz,  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 644 (Ortiz) Regarding Dispensation of Prescription Drugs and Devices- SUPPORT

Dear Senator Ortiz:

On behalf of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support of your efforts to ensure that consumers will have timely access to necessary prescription medications and supplies, especially when a pharmacist may refuse to fill the prescription based on ethical, moral or religious grounds.

There have been a number of reports recently that retail pharmacies are refusing to fill lawful prescriptions, particularly prescriptions for contraception, including emergency contraception, based on individual pharmacists' religious beliefs. Your legislation would establish a duty to fill lawful prescriptions, and balance a pharmacist's right to ethical, moral or religious objections with a patient's right to basic health care.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help with passage of SB 644.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold C. Brown, Jr.  
President, Marin County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Senator Carole Migden  
Assemblymember Joe Nation