

Your name
Your address

Date

Congresswoman / Congressman [*their name*]
Local District office address]

Dear Congresswoman / Congressman [*their name*],

I'm writing to express my opposition to [**name and number of bill--Medical Laboratory Science Professionals Bill--H.F. No.1249**]. I understand the bill will be introduced during this legislative session. As your constituent and a medical laboratory professional living in [**town name**], I have several concerns about how the structure of this bill would affect my profession.

The original intent of this bill was to establish educational and certification requirements for all medical laboratory professionals. These requirements are intended to protect the safety and qualities of medical laboratory testing by ensuring standard employment qualifications are met. It is important for you to know the bill being introduced does not fulfill this intent.

The following is a summary of my concerns. I ask you consider these concerns when you deliberate on this bill:

- Not all medical laboratory professionals are included in this bill. For example, Cytotechnologists (CT), Histotechnologists (HTL) and Histology Technicians (HT) have been exempted, against the wishes of their professional societies
- Exclusion of these medical laboratory professionals may potentially exacerbate salary discrepancies between those who are granted a license and those who are not.
- The current structure of the bill allows for non-certified medical laboratory professionals to perform medical laboratory testing with only one year of on-the-job training.
- The proposed bill limits our professional growth and development, because the proposed license requirements are based on current certification categories and do not have the flexibility to accommodate future changes in certification as technology evolves.

Those in my profession who will lobby for your support of this bill will claim that licensure of medical laboratory professionals improve patient safety and the quality of medical laboratory testing. However, there is little data available nationally to support this claim. Current federal law as defined by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA) of 1988 regulates the practice of medical laboratories, which includes defining personnel requirements. In addition, professional organizations that certify medical laboratory personnel also require documentation of continuing education to maintain certification. This calls into question whether it is necessary for states to further regulate medical laboratory professionals.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns regarding this proposed bill. To truly protect patient safety and the quality of laboratory testing, I feel it is vital to reexamine the current structure of the proposed bill. If licensure is to be required in the State of Minnesota it should be inclusive for all medical laboratory professionals and protect the scope of practice for those who meet the education and certification requirements.

Sincerely,

[Name] [City]