



April 8, 2003

RESOLUTION #3

Honorable Jackie Goldberg
Assemblymember, 45th District
Room 2003, State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Regarding:	AB 1308 (Goldberg)
Position:	Support – Co-sponsor

Dear Assemblymember Goldberg:

On behalf of the Patient’s Advisory & Advocacy Group (“PAAG”), representing over 5,500 patients in substance abuse treatment within the Aegis system of care, we thank you for introducing AB 1308 and to inform you that PAAG, along with the California Society of Addiction Medicine, Bi-Valley Medical Clinic, and Aegis Medical Systems Inc are proud sponsors of this important legislation to improve treatment standards and accessibility in California.

PAAG’s mission is to pursue the best interest of the opiate dependent patient and all other substance dependent patients or clients in the population served by Aegis Medical Systems, Inc. That mission will be furthered by sections of AB 1308 (as proposed to be amended) that will:

1. Provide incentives for California jails to meet the *American Society of Addiction Medicine* guidelines for treatment of addiction withdrawal while incarcerated in local facilities;
2. Clarify the lines of accountability and responsibility between the judiciary, treatment providers, and physicians regarding any decision to require a parolee to discontinue a prescription medication prescribed to treat an addiction to an illegal substance; and,
3. Codify clear, concise guidelines for sliding scale assessment of a patient’s ability to pay for a Narcotic Treatment Program (“NTP”) that will encourage the continual provision of those services by private companies to indigent patients.

AB 1308 proposes these important steps to improve the quality treatment and increase accessibility for patients. The PAAG is proud to be a co-sponsor of this important legislation.

Again, Assemblymember Goldberg, thank you so much for introducing this measure. If you have questions regarding our support, or if we can provide you with assistance in your efforts to enact the bill, please do not hesitate to contact me at _____.

Sincerely,