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Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Inc.
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Omnia pro aegroto

National "DNA warehouse" bill passes

Passing the House of Representatives on a voice vote, S. 1858 has been sent to President Bush for signature. The Newborn Genetic Screening bill was passed by the Senate last December. The bill violates the U.S. Constitution and the Nuremberg Code, writes Twila Brase, president of the Citizen's Council on Health Care (CCHC). "The DNA taken at birth from every citizen is essentially owned by the government, and every citizen becomes a potential subject of government-sponsored genetic research," she states. "It does not require consent and there are no requirements to inform parents about the warehousing of their child's DNA for the purpose of genetic research. Already, in Minnesota, the state health department reports that 42,210 children of the 780,000 whose DNA is housed in the Minnesota 'DNA warehouse' have been subjected to genetic research without their parents' knowledge or consent."

The federal government lacks the Constitutional authority as well as the competence to develop a newborn screening program, states Rep. Ron Paul, M.D. (R-TX). He states that all hospitals will probably scrap their own newborn testing program and adopt the federal model, whatever its flaws, to avoid the loss of federal funding.

"Drafters of the legislation made no effort to ensure that these newborn screening programs do not violate the privacy rights of parents and children," Dr. Paul noted.

Ms. Brase has called on President Bush to veto the bill.

Additional information:

- Read the complete text of Rep. Paul's statement.
Read the bill: http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s110-1858
AAPS Position Paper on Genetic Testing

This entry was posted on Friday, April 11th, 2008 at 10:44 am and is filed under informed consent, privacy. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can leave a response, or trackback from your own site.

2 Responses to "National "DNA warehouse" bill passes"

- JOSEPH WOOLWICH MD Says:
April 13th, 2008 at 11:46 am

I've been looking forward to the day when every birth would be accompanied by a determination of DNA. This will serve to be a major factor in criminal law! I not concerned about the fear related to using the DNA so obtained in research of any type.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD SIGN THE BILL ASAP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- William Linson Says:
April 15th, 2008 at 1:30 pm

OUTRAGEOUS. HOW DID WE GET THIS FAR????

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