



NEWS

Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Society of Human Genetics Applauds House Passage of Genetic Nondiscrimination Legislation

Washington, DC, April 25, 2007 — The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) acclaimed today's vote in the United States House of Representatives approving comprehensive legislation to ban discrimination based on genetic information in health insurance and employment as a major step in the effort to provide security to those with genetic diseases. "What better way can we celebrate DNA Day (April 25) than to have this bill take an enormous step forward?" said Dr. Joann Boughman, Executive Vice President of the ASHG.

Geneticists, and the individuals and families they serve, have been concerned for years about the possible misuse of information about genetic traits or predisposition as a basis for denial of health coverage or a job. Passage of S.358/H.R. 493 the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) bars such discrimination.

"This legislation provides protection that Americans have sought for a long time" said Dr. Wylie Burke, President of the Society. She continued to say that researchers rely on voluntary participation in research studies to further advance our understanding of the functioning of genes in health and disease. Passage of this bill will eliminate concerns that have deterred some from participating in genetic research studies or seeking genetic testing.

We look forward to and encourage the Senate passage of this bill and enacting it into law.

The ASHG is the primary professional organization for human geneticists in the Americas, representing nearly 8000 researchers, physicians, laboratory practice professionals, genetic counselors, nurses and students actively engaged in genetics discovery, teaching and the development of health care applications and services derived from research findings.

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