AMT
American Medical Technologists
Certifying Excellence in Allied Health

August 2, 2012

The Honorable Michael Grimm
United States House of Representatives
512 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 6118, the *Taking Essential Steps for Testing Act*

Dear Congressman Grimm:

American Medical Technologists (AMT) would like to express its appreciation to you for sponsoring H.R. 6118, the *Taking Essential Steps for Testing Act* (TEST Act). AMT strongly supports enactment of the TEST Act.

AMT is a national certification organization and professional society for members of the clinical laboratory profession and related allied health disciplines. Founded in 1939, AMT currently has approximately 60,000 members nationally. AMT's certificant-members include clinical laboratory owners, supervisors, and bench-level personnel, as well as phlebotomists, laboratory assistants, and medical assistants.

The TEST Act would give the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) much-needed discretion in enforcing prohibitions against the improper referral of proficiency testing (PT) specimens under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA). Under current law, CMS is required to suspend the CLIA certificate of any laboratory that refers a PT specimen to another lab, even when the referral is inadvertent or based on the lab's standard protocol for referral of a particular type of specimen. Under H.R. 6118, CMS would retain authority to suspend certificates of labs and lab owners that violate the intent of CLIA's PT referral ban, without unfairly punishing labs that make unintentional referrals.

Thank you for your sponsorship of this important legislation, and please let us know what AMT can do to help promote its enactment.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Damon
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Fred Upton, Chair, Energy & Commerce Committee
Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member, Energy & Commerce Committee

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