

DRW Statement in Opposition to AB 1007 (Professional Opinions)

February 17, 2022

This bill is unnecessary and potentially dangerous. Like everyone else, medical personnel have the right to free speech. However, the position of a medical professional is very serious and their opinions and statements carry tremendous weight. Unfortunately, in the disability field we see “cures” and “treatments” without the support of professional or evidence-based facts which are marketed to people desperately seeking relief, for themselves or their loved ones, from disabling conditions. Medical professionals need to be responsible for what they say and they shouldn’t have a blanket pass from accountability for their statements and actions. When they express opinions that could mislead their patients and the public, and when those statements are outside the bounds of existing and current medical evidence, credentialing entities should have the ability to carry out their duties of oversight to ensure the integrity of medical practice. They must not have their hands tied. The terms used in the bill are overly broad and vague and are open to interpretation.