

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



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MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 5, 2006.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

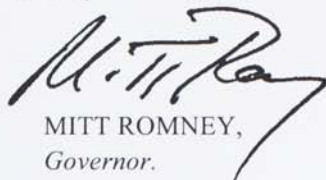
Pursuant to Part the Second, Chapter I, Section I, Article II of the Constitution of the Commonwealth, I am returning unsigned House Bill 4326, "An Act Providing for the Licensing of Genetic Counselors."

House Bill No. 4326 creates a state board to oversee and regulate approximately 70 genetic counselors. Two national organizations already certify genetic counselors: American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) and American Board of Medical Genetics (ABMG). Creating a parallel state bureaucracy is an inefficient use of state resources.

The Department of Public Health estimates it will cost \$50,000 per year to maintain the board and another \$139,000 in one-time costs. Given the small number of genetic counselors and the excessive costs, the shortfall will have to be borne by the taxpayers or, alternately, the state would have to charge exorbitant fees to genetic counselors for licensure. I am opposed to both funding options.

For these reasons, I am returning House Bill 4326 unsigned.

Respectfully submitted,


MITT ROMNEY,
Governor.

