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June 1, 1973

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Professor Lederberg:

Please excuse the delay in responding to your inquiry of a few weeks ago regarding the present status of state law requiring blood tests for venereal disease detection purposes of marriage license applicants. An exceptionally heavy workload has caused me to fall behind with some of my correspondence.

California law (see enclosed) for some years has required a blood test of marriage applicants for a determination as to the presence or absence of infectious syphilis.

A bill I authored last year (SB 1002 -- see copy enclosed) added a requirement that female applicants be tested to determine if they are immune to rubella. Questions as to the availability of sufficient laboratory capability to perform rubella tests resulted in my introduction of SB 322 this year.

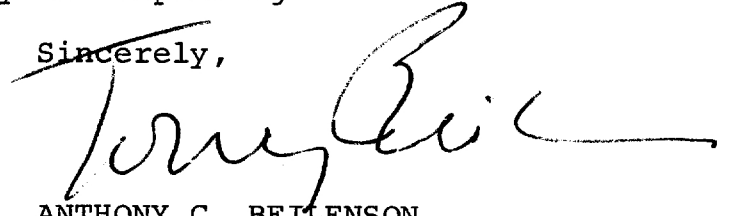
Your point is well taken in suggesting mandatory blood tests or physical examinations as a condition to public school attendance. My only question would be as to the feasibility of such testing on a mass basis so that it would not pose a hardship or prevent some children from attending school.

Professor Joshua Lederberg
June 1, 1973
Page Two

Your comments in that regard would be welcome and I will explore the matter with state officials associated with VD control efforts.

Thank you for taking the time to make the suggestion and, again, I regret the delay in responding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tony Beilenson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ANTHONY C. BEILENSEN

ACB:kpm
Enclosures (3)
cc: Dr. Warren Ketterer
Department of Public Health