

Contact:
Cathie Smith
925-838-4951
csmith@thejustinfoundation.org
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## Assembly Bill 239 Has Passed the Senate and Assembly Floors!

Assembly Bill 239 has passed both the Senate and Assembly Floors in California. The next step is for Governor Schwarzenegger to sign the bill. The Justin Foundation encourages you to write to the Governor to urge passage of this important bill.

Assembly member Mark DeSaulnier introduced Assembly Bill 239 to regulate the profession of alcohol and drug counselors in the private sector in California. This bill provides for the licensing of alcohol and drug treatment counselors by the Board of Behavioral Sciences within the Department of Consumer Affairs. The Justin Foundation fully supports this legislation as it pertains to the private sector and encourages the State of California to enact further legislation to protect the consumer of AOD services in the public sector.

The Justin Foundation celebrates all organizations, providers, administrators and staff members who offer reputable evidence-based substance abuse treatment services in California – of which there are many. The Justin Foundation believes that all patients should have the opportunity to be in a SAFE environment to heal from substance abuse and the State of California has an obligation to protect the consumer. We are hopeful that Assembly Bill 239 will be passed to achieve this end.

The Justin Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting individuals and families affected by drug abuse and to furthering formal education and certification of substance abuse counselors. Our goal is for every drug treatment facility to be a safe place for those who desire healing from addiction. For more information, please visit our website at: <a href="https://www.thejustinfoundation.org">www.thejustinfoundation.org</a>.

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