



American Society for Cytotechnology

**Statement to the
Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC)
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**Presented by
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The ASCT through direct member input actively supported regulatory change to the existing PT program. We still believe a **meaningful** PT program in balance with the other mandated quality management tools in cytology is the correct approach to insure patient safety.

It was however, the expectation of this organization that the proposed changes would be issued in a timely manner. The Cytology PT Workgroup presented and CLIAC made recommendations June 2006. At this writing the NPRM has not yet been issued.

In this extended interim, at least three bills have been introduced in the Congress which could significantly impact the PT program through *legislation*. At present, two are in committee.

While we maintain our support for *regulatory* change, the workforce grows increasingly impatient with the delays in the NPRM.

Since the approval of a Cytology PT program in 2004, proficiency testing has been an expensive, contentious and divisive issue for the cytology profession. We again urge an expedited rule making process so resolution can begin.

On behalf of the ASCT and our cytotechnologist members, I would like to thank the committee for this opportunity to comment.