TO: **State Senator Rodney Moen, Chair**
Members, Senate Committee on Health,
Utilities, Veterans and Military Affairs

FROM: **Eric Jensen, JD**
Director, State & Public Affairs

DATE: **October 17, 2001**

RE: **Support for AB 256 – Licensure of Perfusionists**

On behalf of the 9000 members of the State Medical Society, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of AB 256.

A perfusionist is a trained health professional who, among other things, operates heart-lung bypass machinery during cardiac surgery. The term, "extracorporeal circulation," meaning "outside-the-body circulation," describes the process of blood continuously leaving a patient's body to allow a health professional to perform an artificial organ function on the blood. In the simplest terms, in the case of a heart-lung bypass machine, the patients' blood leaves the body via plastic tubing and enters the machine which adds oxygen to the blood (the lung function) and pushes the blood through the patient's circulatory system (the heart function), during cardiac surgery.

From this description alone, it is clear that perfusion is a complex and highly technical science. Educational programs around the country train perfusionists to perform these vital tasks, but in Wisconsin there is no regulation of the profession. AB 256 would create a perfusionist license, authorize perfusion practice under the supervision of a physician, and allow the Medical Examining Board to promulgate rules further regulating the profession. In addition to the education and training perfusionists receive, AB 256 will help ensure high quality health care and patient safety, thus we urge your support for AB 256.

Vote Record

Senate - Committee on Health, Utilities, Veterans and Military Affairs

Date: 2/20/02

Bill Number: AB 256 (perf)

Moved by: Erpenbach   Seconded by: Meyer

Motion: Concurrence

Moen/Meyer

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Sen. Rodney Moen, Chair	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Roger Breske	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Judith Robson	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Jon Erpenbach	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Mark Meyer	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Peggy Rosenzweig	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Robert Cowles	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Scott Fitzgerald	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Mary Lazich	☑	☐	☐	☐

Totals: _____ _____ _____ _____

☐ Motion Carried   ☐ Motion Failed