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**ACLA APPLAUDS HOUSE PASSAGE OF
“GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT”**

Washington, DC -- The American Clinical Laboratory Association (ACLA) applauds the House of Representatives for passing the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) on April 25th.

“Passage of this landmark legislation will go a long way to reassuring patients that their genetic testing information is confidential and protected against misuse,” said Alan Mertz, President of ACLA. “Spectacular innovation in genetic testing is playing an increasingly critical role in transforming our health care system in the direction of ‘personalized medicine.’ This legislation is needed to remove a key obstacle to this much-heralded transformation.”

The legislative effort was led by Representative Slaughter (D-NY) and Representative Biggert (R-IL), who spoke to the need for the passage of legislation to eliminate the misuse of genetic information. The bill was passed with a 420-3 vote and is expected to pass the Senate and be signed into law in the coming months.

ACLA has participated as a member of the Coalition for Genetic Fairness and assisted in working to educate Congressional policymakers and staff about the importance of legal protections for genetic information, and ensure passage of meaningful genetic information non-discrimination legislation.

The Senate unanimously passed versions of GINA in 2003 and 2005, but in both years the bill stalled in the House. President Bush has indicated he will sign the bill into law.

ACLA represents local, regional, and national clinical laboratories throughout the United States.

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