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The Council for Responsible Genetics is pleased that the University of California, Berkeley has decided to follow the law in the administration of their controversial "Bring Your Genes to Cal" freshman genetic testing program and not improperly use an unaccredited lab to process DNA samples. The Council for Responsible Genetics has been raising the issue of improper lab certification with the University and the Department of Public Health for some time. It is outrageous that the intervention of the Department of Public Health was required before the University would address an issue that they have been aware about for some time, particularly when the best interests of their students were at stake. We believe this program change is indicative of the lack of sufficient consideration and thought used to design the "Bring Your Genes to Cal" program in the first place and the complete lack of appreciation for the serious issues raised about the program since it was publicly announced. We further believe this is indicative of the lack of sufficient oversight on behalf of the Berkeley Chancellor and the Regents of the University of California system. There are still many very serious issues remaining about the "Bring Your Genes to Cal" program including a lack of sufficient informed consent before students chose to participate in this program and a lack of sufficient privacy protections in place for both the actual DNA samples as well as the data derived from them. "The students and taxpayers deserve to have their questions about this controversial program answered by University of California, Berkeley officials," said CRG President Jeremy Gruber. "The Council for Responsible Genetics again calls upon the University of California, Berkeley to delay this program until they can sufficiently demonstrate that the best interest of the students are protected."

Since 1983, the Council for Responsible Genetics has represented the public interest and fostered public debate about the social, ethical and environmental implications of genetic technologies. CRG is a leader in the movement to steer biotechnology toward the advancement of public health, environmental protection, equal justice, and respect for human rights.

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