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To Whom It May Concern,

I cannot understate the importance and need that Dor Yeshorim fills in the Orthodox community. The physical and mental strain on patients, parents, siblings and extended family who have family members suffering from fatal disorders is not possible to imagine. Full community support for the Dor Yeshorim program that helps avert tragedy for couples unsuspectingly carrying defective genes is imperative. Given that these genes appear in families with no prior history of disease, it is our responsibility to make sure that everyone is tested for as many recessive diseases as possible.

Dor Yeshorim's success of establishing these testings as a prerequisite to completing a shidduch can be attributed to their reputation of impeccable confidentiality. The results given by Dor Yeshorim are accepted without a question. In contrast, patients who are tested privately were not always successful in convincing the other party to accept their findings. Also, patients who may test positive at an outside lab, are not always willing to announce their carrier status to the second party. Screening for genetic diseases is an extremely complicated procedure and needs to be performed in specialized centers, because the interpretation of the results requires special expertise and experience in the interpretation of text results.

Dor Yeshorim deserves our full encouragement in continuing and broadening their work. Although they are presently testing for many genetic recessive diseases, there unfortunately still is a great need for additional testing for more devastating genetic recessive diseases plaguing our community.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Shanik, M.D.

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