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From: Mark_Evans@amat.com
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2004 3:27 PM
To: Director - FASB
Subject: File Reference 1102-100: Accounting for Stock Options and ESPPs

Letter of Comment No: 4608 -
File Reference: 1102-100

I am writing to express my opposition to changing the accounting treatment for stock options and Employee Stock Purchase Plans (ESPPs).

I and my wife have been beneficiaries of these programs. Without them, we would not be able to give the medical assistance we need for our Autistic sons. My wife and I have taken the funds from stock option grants and placed it aside to provide the therapy my sons need in order for them to be contributors to this society. Without these funds, my wife and I would be in an even more desperate situation.

In 1998 my wife gave birth to triplet sons. We had to sell options at that time in order to afford for a nurse to tend to the boys at night so we could get much needed sleep. We have no family near to help us and the boys were on Apnea monitors for the first 4 months of life. At 2 1/2 years old two of my boys were diagnosed as Autistic. The only proven treatment for this condition is intense Applied Behavioral Therapy at a minimum of 32 hours per week. This therapy is expensive and is not covered under most insurance policies. My wife and I were devastated. We reviewed our alternatives and decided we could sell all of our options and place the cash in a fund to allow us to pay for the required therapy. After three years, we are still working through the original money set aside but will run out in another two years. One of my sons is doing much better and attended a regular kindergarten class last year. My other son is still seriously impaired but is doing far better than the Neurologist expected from his first appointment. My wife now stays home with the children and manages the therapy program for my sons. Without the availability of the options, we would not be able to continue with the work we have started. And we may soon find ourselves having to move out of the house we have now in order to get the funds required to continue this work.

The changes in the FASB rules will exclude us from the possibility of continuing this work because no reasonable company would accept placing a nebulous "guesstimate" of expense on the bottom line of their financial statement. I wouldn't if my name had to be on it.

Please, do not change the accounting treatment of stock options and Employee Stock Purchase Plans.

Sincerely,
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6/18/2004