



September 2, 2015

The Honorable Edmund J. Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1542 (MATHIS) – WORKER’S COMPENSATION: NEUROPSYCHOLOGISTS
SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Brown:

At its August 14, 2015 meeting, the Board of Psychology (Board) adopted a **support** position on AB 1542 (Mathis). The bill would list neuropsychologists among the specialty workers' compensation providers, as defined in the Labor Code, who may be appointed as qualified medical examiners (QME's) for purposes of evaluating medical-legal issues in the workers compensation system.

Neuropsychology is a field within psychology with expertise in the applied science of brain-behavior relationships. Having a general psychologist list for QME's could result in an injured worker having to wait for a referral to a neuropsychologist from one of the QME psychologists or having a new panel created in hopes of there being a neuropsychologist on the panel. This process could delay the evaluation resulting in harm to the injured worker. When a worker suffers a traumatic brain injury he or she should be seen by a neuropsychologist, not a general psychologist.

Recognition of specialties within the profession of psychology is not something the Board does. Instead, the Board enforces competency of practice on a complaint basis using the expert reviewer program. If a complaint is against a licensee performing neuropsychology then the Board would refer the matter to an expert in neuropsychology to determine if the subject deviated from the standard of care or provided care outside of his/her area or competency. AB 1542 would maintain the current practice of neuropsychology being recognized as a specialty area of QME's

The Board's mission is to advance quality psychological services for Californians by ensuring ethical and legal practice and supporting the evolution of the profession.

The Board respectfully requests your signature for this important legislation. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Board's Executive Officer, Antonette Sorrick, at (916) 574-7113. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Erickson".

MICHAEL ERICKSON, PH.D.
President, Board of Psychology