

May 24, 2016

The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080

RE: AB 2443 (BAKER) – LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLANS: SCHOOL CLIMATE

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

At its May 20, 2016 meeting, the Board of Psychology (Board) adopted a **Support** position on AB 2443 (Baker). This bill adds student access to school psychologists or counselors to the indicators used to assess school climate for the purposes of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). Specifically, this bill requires local education agencies (LEAs) to assess student access to school psychologists or counselors who can address issues such as mental health concerns, conflict resolution and bullying.

The Board supports and agrees with the author's belief that school counselors can fill a vital role in helping meet the needs of students. Requiring agencies to report the actual number of professionals will help identify any additional mental health support needs.

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.

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,



STEPHEN C. PHILLIPS, JD, PsyD
President, Board of Psychology

cc: Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Assembly Member Catharine Baker
Assembly Republican Caucus