

May 24, 2016

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1194 (HILL) – PSYCHOLOGY: BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY: PERSONNEL

Dear Senator Lara:

At its May 20, 2016 meeting, the Board of Psychology (Board) adopted a **Support** position on SB 1194 (Hill). This bill would extend the statutory sunset of the Board of Psychology to 2021, authorize the Board to issue a Retired Psychologist license and make a variety of other changes to the licensing requirements for psychologists and Board operations.

The Board supports and agrees with the Sunset Review Committee staff recommendation that “the practice of psychology continue to be regulated by the current Board members in order to protect the interests of the public and be reviewed once again in four years.”

The Board appreciates the confidence the Committees have demonstrated in recommending the continuance of the regulation of the practice of psychology by the Board in its current configuration. In the next four years the Board is committed to addressing the following issues:

1. Ensuring greater access to mental health care in California.
2. Establishing higher criteria for applicants for licensure to ensure consistency with other licensing jurisdictions across the nation.
3. Establishing continuing professional development to ensure competence of its licensees
4. Redefining the psychological assistant statute to focus on appropriate supervision rather than physical setting.
5. Developing a mechanism to provide licensees an alternative license status at the end of their career.
6. Increasing transparency to the consumers of psychological services in California by providing expanded educational and disciplinary data on its licensees.
7. Continuing to review and amend the statutes and regulations in order to be more transparent, more understandable to consumers, and evolve with the field.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SCPHILLIPS', written in a cursive style.

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

cc: Senate Committee on Appropriations
Senator Jerry Hill
Senate Republican Caucus