

SB 747 (Kehoe) – Continuing Education: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Patients

***Introduced February 18, 2011, Vetoed October 9, 2011, In Senate.
Consideration of Governor's veto pending***

Existing law provides for licensing and regulation of various healing arts professions and generally requires licensees to complete continuing education courses in order to remain eligible to renew their licenses or certifications.

Existing law imposes various training requirements for certified nurse assistants regulated by the State Department of Public Health.

This bill would require physicians and surgeons, physician assistants, registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses, nurse practitioners, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, licensed clinical social workers, psychiatric technicians, and certified nurse assistants to complete at least one course of 2 to 5 hours in duration that provides instruction on cultural competency, sensitivity, and best practices for providing adequate care to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, as specified.

The bill would require the applicable licensing or certifying entity to enforce these requirements. The new requirements would become effective on January 1, 2013.



May 31, 2011

The Honorable Christine Kehoe
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 747 (Kehoe) - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Kehoe,

The Board of Psychology must respectfully take an OPPOSE position on your bill, SB 747, which would require licensed psychologists to complete a mandatory continuing education (CE) course on cultural competency, sensitivity and the best practices for providing adequate care to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) patients and clients.

The Board understands and supports the importance of providing culturally competent and sensitive care to patients of all backgrounds. The Board opposes, however, the piecemeal approach of mandating CE courses through legislation. The Board believes it should exercise its existing regulatory authority to mandate specified topics when appropriate and, as much as possible, direct and encourage licensees to choose courses that are the most helpful and relevant to their continuing competency for their own practices.

This bill would further differentiate California from other licensing jurisdictions in the United States. In the educational curriculum for a doctoral degree in psychology, training in various aspects of diversity is currently included and required by the American Psychological Association's Commission on Accreditation. This training requirement has been in existence for a number of years.

Should you have any questions regarding our position, please contact Robert Kahane, Executive Officer at (916) 263-2706 or Jeffery Thomas, Assistant Executive Officer at (916) 263-1617.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Kahane", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert Kahane, J.D.
Executive Officer
Board of Psychology

cc: Dr. Richard Sherman, Board President
Dr. Emil Rodolfa, Board Vice-President



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 09 2011


To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 747 without my signature.

This bill would order doctors, nurses and other licensed health care professionals to take a brief "continuing education" course on how to treat and care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons.

I believe that respective licensing boards are better suited than the Legislature or the Governor to decide these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Edmund G. Brown Jr.", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.
Edmund G. Brown Jr.