

MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 24, 2018
TO	Board of Psychology
FROM	 Konnor Leitzell Student Assistant
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #20(b)(1)(A) – AB 244 (Cervantes) Maternal Mental Health

Background:

This bill would have created a pilot program, in counties that elect to participate, to increase the capacity of health providers that serve pregnant and postpartum women up to one year after delivery to effectively prevent, identify, and manage postpartum depression and other mental health conditions. The pilot program would have included the following: a consultation program utilizing telehealth and e-consult technologies, training and toolkits on screening, assessment, and the range of treatment options, coordination of care for program participants, and access to perinatal psychiatric consultations for program participants. The pilot program would have been privately funded and require a report to the Legislature regarding the pilot programs results within six months of the end of the pilot.

Board staff felt that AB 244 would have been a great first step in increasing screening and treatment for women experiencing perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, but could have potentially excluded one of the most critical components for treatment, which are psychotherapy services provided by psychologists and other licensed mental health professionals. By only identifying “perinatal psychiatric consultation”, this could have unnecessarily inhibited pilot programs from utilizing psychologists and other licensed mental health professionals to provide psychotherapy services and limit the timeframe for providing services, resulting in suboptimal use of limited program resources.

On April 21, 2017, the Board took a “Support if Amended” position on AB 244 instructing staff to seek specified amendments to add “postpartum” and “psychological” to the bill to cover the full spectrum of perinatal and postpartum care that is required during pregnancy and a year after giving birth.

The following week, staff called the author’s office and was informed that they would not be pursuing this measure any further.

Location: Assembly – Dead

Status: 1/12/18 Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(1)

Action Requested:

No action is required.