


MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 30, 2018
TO	Board of Psychology
FROM	 Jason Glasspiegel Central Services Coordinator
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 22(c)(3) – AB 2143 (Caballero) - Mental health: Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program

Background:

Existing law establishes the Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program, which allows a licensed mental health service provider, including a psychologist and a marriage and family therapist, who provides direct patient care in a publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area to apply for grants under the program to reimburse his or her educational loans related to a career as a licensed mental health service provider.

This bill as amended on June 11, 2018, would expand the program to apply to persons eligible under existing law who attain further education in order to practice as psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners or physician assistants in psychiatric mental health settings, thereby allowing those practitioners to apply for grants under the program for reimbursement of those later-incurred educational loans but paid for by the fund of their psychology license.

At the May 2018 Board meeting, the Board voted to Oppose AB 2143 (Caballero).

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations

Status: 06/28/2018 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Appropriations.

Votes: 06/27/18 – Senate Health (9-0-0)
 06/18/18 – Senate Business Professions and Economic Development (9-0-0)
 05/25/18 – Assembly Floor (70-0-8)
 05/16/18 – Assembly Committee on Appropriations (17-0-0)
 04/24/18 – Assembly Committee on Health (15-0-0) (Prior Version)
 03/20/18 – Assembly Committee on Business and Professions (13-0-3) (Prior Version)

Action Requested:

No Action is required at this time. Staff will continue to advocate in Opposition to AB 2143 (Caballero).

Attachment A: Letter in Opposition to Senate Committee on Appropriations

Attachment B: AB 2143 (Caballero) Text

July 5, 2018

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: AB 2143 (Caballero) – Mental Health: Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program

Dear Senator Portantino,

At its May 11, 2018 meeting, the Board of Psychology (Board) adopted an **OPPOSE** position on AB 2143 (Caballero). This bill would expand the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund (Fund) to apply to persons who attain further education in order to practice as psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners or physician assistants in psychiatric mental health settings, thereby allowing those practitioners to apply for grants for reimbursement of later-incurred educational loans unrelated to the provision of the services licensed by their original licensing board.

This bill would allow individuals currently licensed by the Board or the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS), who are licensed and practicing as a physician assistant or nurse practitioner, to be granted money designated for Board and BBS licensees providing direct mental health services, while working in a mental health setting under their physician assistant or nurse practitioner license. Specifically, this fund is intended to provide incentives to individuals who will provide direct mental health services to underserved populations who incurred expense in gaining a license from the Board or BBS, not for licenses granted by other Boards.

Additionally, the money in the Fund is paid by the current licensees of each board, at the time of their renewal, and result in separate finite pools of money intended for each licensee category of the specific board. Allowing a dual licensed psychologist/psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner or a psychologist/physician assistant in psychiatric mental health settings to receive grants from fees intended to be paid to those practicing psychology in underserved communities, defeats the purpose of having a self-funded educational fund intended to increase the availability of psychological services in these underserved communities as the new recipients would not necessarily be providing services as a psychologist in the targeted areas.

The Board asks for your “No” vote when AB 2143 (Caballero) is heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations. 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 Member Caballero
Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations
Samantha Lui, Consultant, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

[Home](#)[Bill Information](#)[California Law](#)[Publications](#)[Other Resources](#)[My Subscriptions](#)[My Favorites](#)

AB-2143 Mental health: Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program. (2017-2018)

SECTION 1. Section 128454 of the Health and Safety Code, as added by Section 9 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 2017, is amended to read:

128454. (a) There is hereby created the Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program within the Health Professions Education Foundation.

(b) For purposes of this article, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) (A) "Licensed mental health service provider" means a psychologist licensed by the Board of Psychology, registered psychologist, postdoctoral psychological assistant, postdoctoral psychology trainee employed in an exempt setting pursuant to Section 2910 of the Business and Professions Code or employed pursuant to a State Department of Health Care Services waiver pursuant to Section 5751.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, marriage and family therapist, associate marriage and family therapist, licensed clinical social worker, associate clinical social worker, licensed professional clinical counselor, and associate professional clinical counselor.

(B) "Licensed mental health service provider" also includes a person described in subparagraph (A) who is currently fully licensed by his or her respective board and who has subsequently attained further education and now practices in either of the following capacities:

(i) As a nurse practitioner who is listed by the board as a "psychiatric mental health nurse" under Section 2732.05 of the Business and Professions Code.

(ii) A physician assistant licensed pursuant to Chapter 7.7 (commencing with Section 3500) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, who works in a psychiatric mental health setting.

(2) "Mental health professional shortage area" means an area designated as such by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

(c) Commencing January 1, 2005, any licensed mental health service provider, including a mental health service provider who is employed at a publicly funded mental health facility or a public or nonprofit private mental health facility that contracts with a county mental health entity or facility to provide mental health services, who provides direct patient care in a publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area may apply for grants under the program to reimburse his or her educational loans related to a career as a licensed mental health service provider.

(d) The Health Professions Education Foundation shall make recommendations to the director of the office concerning all of the following:

(1) A standard contractual agreement to be signed by the director and any licensed mental health service provider who is serving in a publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area that would require the licensed mental health service provider who receives a grant under the program to work in the publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area for at least one year.

(2) The maximum allowable total grant amount per individual licensed mental health service provider.

(3) The maximum allowable annual grant amount per individual licensed mental health service provider.

(e) The Health Professions Education Foundation shall develop the program, which shall comply with all of the following requirements:

(1) The total amount of grants under the program per individual licensed mental health service provider shall not exceed the amount of educational loans related to a career as a licensed mental health service provider incurred by that provider.

(2) The program shall keep the fees from the different licensed providers separate to ensure that all grants are funded by those fees collected from the corresponding licensed provider groups. *A grant recipient who is a person described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) shall have his or her grant funded by the fees collected from the corresponding licensed provider group described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of which he or she is a licensee.*

(3) A loan forgiveness grant may be provided in installments proportionate to the amount of the service obligation that has been completed.

(4) The number of persons who may be considered for the program shall be limited by the funds made available pursuant to Section 128458.

(f) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2018.