

**Board of Psychology**

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May 21, 2014

The Honorable Rob Bonta  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6025  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2396 - **Oppose**

Dear Assembly Member Bonta,

At its May 16, 2014 meeting, the Board of Psychology (Board) took an oppose position on AB 2396 (Bonta).

AB 2396 would prevent the Board from denying a professional license based solely on a criminal conviction that has been withdrawn, set aside, or dismissed by the court.

The Board currently cites Section 480 of the Business & Professions Code when denying a license to an applicant who has an expunged conviction. If the Board is prohibited from denying a license based solely on a conviction that has been dismissed pursuant to 1203.4 or a similar dismissal, the Board would be required to conduct an investigation to substantiate the underlying cause for the conviction. This would have a fiscal impact on the Board through increased utilization of investigators, the Attorney General's Office and staff resources. The alternative would be to license those applicants who have an expunged conviction that we have determined would potentially pose a danger to the public.

The Board has concerns that this bill would impede the Board's ability to protect consumers of psychological services in the State of California.

If you would like to discuss the Board's position, please feel free to contact the Board's Administrative Coordinator, Jonathan Burke, at (916) 574-7137.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole J. Jones".

NICOLE J. JONES  
Chair, Policy and Advocacy Committee  
Board of Psychology

cc:

Board Members

Tracy Rhine, Deputy Director, Legislative and Policy Review, Department of Consumer Affairs