

May 24, 2016

The Honorable Tony Mendoza
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2086 (COOLEY) – WORKER’S COMPENSATION NEUROPSYCHOLOGISTS

Dear Senator Mendoza:

At its May 20, 2016 meeting, the Board of Psychology (Board) adopted a **Support if Amended** position on AB 2086 (Cooley). This bill would provide a statutory authorization for licensed psychologists who meet specified requirements to be appointed as a qualified medical evaluator (QME) in neuropsychology in the workers’ compensation system.

The Board supports and agrees with author’s intention to allow neuropsychologists to perform the services of a QME. However, the Board would like the following language to be considered:

Labor Code Section 139.2(b)

(5) Is a psychologist licensed in this State and meets one of the following requirements:

(A) Is board certified in clinical psychology by a board recognized by the administrative director.

~~(B) Holds a doctoral degree in psychology, or a doctoral degree deemed equivalent for licensure by the Board of Psychology pursuant to Section 2914 of the Business and Professions Code, from a university or professional school recognized by the administrative director and h~~ **H**as not less than five years’ postdoctoral experience in the diagnosis and treatment of emotional and mental disorders.

(C) Has not less than five years’ postdoctoral experience in the diagnosis and treatment of emotional and mental disorders, and has served as an agreed medical evaluator on eight or more occasions prior to January 1, 1990.

(D) Is certified in clinical neuropsychology by the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology, the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology, or another organization recognized by the administrative director. A psychologist who meets the requirements of this subparagraph may be appointed as a qualified medical evaluator in neuropsychology.

~~(E) Is licensed to practice psychology in this state and has a doctoral degree in psychology, or a doctoral degree deemed equivalent for licensure by the Board of Psychology pursuant to Section 2914 of the Business and Professions Code, from an accredited university or college training program, h~~ **H**as completed an internship or its equivalent in a clinically relevant area of professional psychology, has at least two years of experience and specialized training, at least one year of which is at the postdoctoral level, in the study and practice of clinical neuropsychology and related neurosciences under the supervision of a clinical neuropsychologist, and has served as an agreed medical evaluator in neuropsychology on five or more occasions. A psychologist who

satisfies the requirements of this subparagraph may be appointed as a qualified medical evaluator in neuropsychology.

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 'SC Phillips', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

cc: Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations
Assembly Member Ken Cooley
Senate Republican Caucus