

August 24, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Governor Brown:

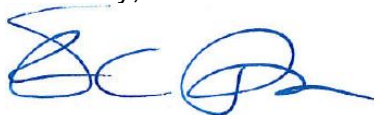
At its May 11, 2018 meeting, the Board of Psychology (Board) adopted an **OPPOSE** position on AB 2143 (Caballero). This bill would expand the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund (Fund) to apply to persons who attain further education in order to practice as psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners 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 pools of money intended for each licensee category of the specific board. Allowing a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner or physician assistant in psychiatric mental health settings to receive grants from fees intended to be paid to licensees of the Board or BBS for loans associated with their Board or BBS license, defeats the purpose of having a self-funded educational fund.

For this reason, the Board asks for your "Veto" of AB 2143 (Caballero). 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  
Camille Wagner, Secretary, Legislative Affairs