



May 21, 2015

The Honorable Scott Wilk
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4158
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 85 (WILK) – OPEN MEETINGS
OPPOSE**

Dear Assemblymember Wilk:

The California Board of Psychology (Board) **OPPOSES AB 85**, which would require two-member advisory committees or panels of a “state body” (as defined in the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act) to hold open, public meetings if at least one member of the advisory committee is a member of the larger state body and the advisory committee is supported, in whole or in part, by state funds.

The Board commonly utilizes two-member committees to address issues requiring in-depth discussion and analysis. The intent is to create an environment that encourages discussion and sharing of ideas between Board members, staff, and interested stakeholders, which may eventually be used to generate a legislative or regulatory proposal.

This bill would prevent the Board and all of its various committees, from asking fewer than three members to review a document, draft a letter, provide expert analysis, or work on legal language without giving public notice. Under current law, the advisory activities of these two-member bodies are already vetted and voted upon in a publically noticed meeting of the whole committee or Board.

Additionally, boards form two-member executive committee meetings to handle matters such as personnel issues, or to review applications when hiring an executive officer. This bill would require these types of meetings to be noticed and subject to the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Act.

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 that reads "Michael Erickson".

MICHAEL ERICKSON, PH.D.
President, Board of Psychology