

September 4, 2018

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

**RE: SB 1125 (Atkins) – Federally qualified health center and rural health clinic services.**

At its May 11, 2018 meeting, the Board of Psychology (Board) adopted a **SUPPORT** position on SB 1125 (Atkins). This bill would require the state to allow Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Rural Health Clinics (RHC) to bill Medi-Cal for two visits if a patient is provided mental health services on the same day they receive other medical services.

In California, if a patient receives treatment through Medi-Cal at a FQHC or RHC from both a medical provider and a mental health specialist on the same day, the State Department of Health Care Services will only reimburse the center for one “visit”, meaning both providers can’t be adequately reimbursed for their time and expertise and the FQHC and RHC have to use alternative funds to cover that visit. Allowing patients of FQHC’s and RHC’s to see a mental health provider and a medical provider on the same day, would remove unnecessary barriers to access to mental health care and increase the likelihood that patients can start or continue receiving services at these clinics.

For these reasons, the Board asks for you sign SB 1125 (Atkins). If you have any questions, please contact the Board’s Executive Officer Antonette Sorrick at (916) 574-7113 or [antonette.sorrick@dca.ca.gov](mailto:antonette.sorrick@dca.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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

Cc: Senator Atkins  
Camille Wagner, Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor