



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Protecting consumers by advancing high quality, safe medical care.

Executive Office

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Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California | Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency | Department of Consumer Affairs

June 8, 2021

The Honorable Evan Low
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4126
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 562 (Low) – Support, if Amended Position

Dear Assemblymember Low:

The Medical Board of California (Board) considered your legislation at its meeting on May 13, 2021, and adopted a Support, if Amended position. AB 562 requires the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to establish a program to provide mental health services to eligible licensees who provide, or have provided, consistent in-person health care services to patients with COVID-19, as specified. While the Board supports the overall goal of the bill, the Board requests two amendments.

First, the Board requests that applications be received and approved by the DCA-selected mental health services vendor(s). Although the bill states that application or participation in the program shall not be used for purposes of discipline, licensees may still be hesitant to apply through their regulatory authority, potentially lowering demand for the program. This issue would be avoided if the DCA-selected vendors handle the related administrative aspects of the program.

Second, due to the Board's precarious financial position, we are not sufficiently resourced to fund this program. Therefore, the Board requests that non-Board funding be secured to cover all program expenses. In light of these concerns, the Board has adopted a Support, if Amended position.

Please contact Aaron Bone, Chief of Legislation and Public Affairs, at (916) 274-6251 or via email at Aaron.Bone@mbc.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

William Prasifka
Executive Director

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cc: Senator Richard Roth, Chair, Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and
Economic Development
Members, Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development
Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations