



CONSUMER | POLICY
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March 15, 2022

Honorable Marc Berman, Chair, and Members
Assembly Committee on Business & Professions
State Capitol, Suite 6130
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2060 (Quirk)—Medical Board of California

Dear Chairman Berman and Committee Members:

The Consumer Protection Policy Center (CPPC) (formerly known as the Center for Public Interest Law) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan academic and advocacy organization based at the University of San Diego School of Law. For 40 years, CPPC has studied occupational licensing and monitored California agencies that regulate business, professions, and trades, including the Medical Board of California (MBC) and other Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) health care boards. CPPC's expertise has long been relied upon by the Legislature, the executive branch, and the courts where the regulation of licensed professions is concerned, and we advocate for policies that ensure transparency and public protection at the highest levels. CPPC strongly supports Assembly Bill 2060, introduced by Assemblymember Bill Quirk, and sponsored by MBC.

Existing law, the Medical Practice Act, establishes MBC for the licensure and regulation of physicians and surgeons, and requires the board to have seven public members. This bill would increase the number of public members from seven to eight—thus creating a public-member majority on MBC.

Additionally, existing law authorizes MBC to carry out disciplinary actions against licensees, authorizes the Board to appoint panels of at least four members for this purpose and prohibits a panel from being comprised of more public members than licensed physicians or surgeons. This bill would instead prohibit a panel from being comprised of more licensed physicians or surgeons than public members.

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The MBC has received criticism for its leniency toward bad doctors, ranging from negligent doctors to doctors with pending sexual assault charges. MBC President Kristina Lawson has expressed hope that this bill will restore public trust in MBC and help rebuild the relationship between the Board and the public. Assemblymember Quirk has argued that “consumer protection boards should be composed of a majority of people who are members of the public, rather than those of the profession they regulate. It is a feature that should be included in all boards.”

CPPC agrees with Assemblymember Quirk’s sentiments and therefore strongly supports AB 2060.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Thomas Stefano', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Thomas Stefano, Administrative Director
Consumer Protection Policy Center