



April 4, 2023

The Honorable Marc Berman
Chairman, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
1021 O Street, Ste. 6130
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 765 (Wood) Physicians and surgeons – Support

Dear Chairman Berman,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write in support of AB 765, which would protect “physician-equivalent” titles, terms, letters, words, abbreviations, description of services, alone or in combination with any other title, indicating or implying that they are licensed to practice as such unless they have at the time of so doing a valid, unrevoked, and unsuspended license as a physician and surgeon.

As healthcare practices and various scopes of practice have evolved over the past decade, consumers’ options for seeking care have expanded. Due to this evolution, patients must have a clear understanding of the education and training of their healthcare providers. Lack of clarity in advertising and communications has the potential to mislead patients. Requiring healthcare providers to communicate and display their proper title, credentials, and capabilities allows patients to make informed choices about their healthcare decisions protecting their safety.

Recently, some practices have been using the “-ologist” designation in a way that is not accurate and can confuse patients about the differences between various types of healthcare providers. Sometimes, this can result in patients mistakenly believing that they are being treated by a physician when they are not.

Several other states and jurisdictions, such as the District of Columbia, Indiana, New Hampshire, and Texas, have similar laws protecting physician specialty designated titles such as an anesthesiologist, dermatologist, family physician, obstetrician, gynecologist, radiologist, psychiatrist, surgeon, etc. Therefore, AB 765 puts California in line with many other states.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support AB 765.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yoder', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Members, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
Assemblymember Jim Wood