

» LAAC UPDATES – OCTOBER 2015

The LAAC provides periodic updates to inform members about recent advocacy efforts and to request input from members about their advocacy needs.

Qualified Medical Evaluator (QME) Regulations to Abolish Neuropsychology QME Status in California

The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) Division of Worker's Compensation adopted a regulation that abolished neuropsychology as a QME specialty. Neuropsychological assessment is necessary to evaluate cognitive dysfunction stemming from neurological injuries sustained by workers, and thus this regulation threatens the competent evaluation of these individuals. The California Psychological Association (CPA) and the California Society of Industrial Medicine and Surgery (CSIMS) have coordinated efforts with key legislators to support Assembly Bill (AB) 1542, which lists neuropsychologists as QME providers. AB 1542 passed in the California state Assembly with a vote of 79-0 and in the state Senate with a vote of 39-0. Despite this unanimous support, opposition from DIR continued to threaten AB 1542 through the potential for gubernatorial veto. The LAAC wrote a [letter](#) to the Hon. Governor Edmund "Jerry" G. Brown, Jr., encouraging him to sign the bill into law immediately and provided other IOPC member organizations with a copy of the letter to use in their own action. As of September 1, 2015, neuropsychology is no longer a QME specialty. The bill was enrolled and sent to the Governor on September 3, 2015, although was unfortunately vetoed. The CSIMS wrote a [statement](#) in response to Governor Brown's veto. The LAAC plans to offer the CPA and CSIMS support and assistance with their next steps. Please see the [CSIMS website](#) for more detailed information.

State Action Network

The LAAC needs your help to create a 50 state action network. We are looking for at least one member from each state to help us keep track of important legislation or advocacy issues that we should be aware of and working on for our members. We don't anticipate heavy time commitments and this is a great way to have your voice heard. If interested please contact: LAACCommittee@nanonline.org. We need representatives from the following states:

Arizona	Missouri	South Carolina
Connecticut	Montana	South Dakota
Delaware	Nebraska	Tennessee
Indiana	Nevada	Utah
Iowa	New Hampshire	Vermont
Kentucky	New Mexico	Washington
Maine	North Dakota	Wisconsin
Maryland	Oklahoma	Wyoming
Minnesota	Oregon	
Mississippi	Rhode Island	