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## Legislative Overview of SB 65

1. SB 65 changes the professional corporation law to include licensed psychologists, marriage and family therapists, licensed clinical social workers and psychiatric nurses.
2. With the passage of this law, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, social workers and psychiatric nurses may form professional corporations with medical doctors, osteopathic physicians and homeopathic practice professionals.

## Affected Groups

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Medical Doctors | 5. Marriage and Family Therapists           |
| 2. Osteopaths      | 6. Social Workers                           |
| 3. Homeopaths      | 7. Psychiatric Nurses                       |
| 4. Psychologists   | 8. Clients requiring mental health services |

## Advantages to the Public

1. Allows the formation of a professional corporation, composed of licensed multidisciplinary mental health professionals, for the purpose of rendering a menu of evaluation, consultation and psychotherapeutic treatment for clients requiring these services.
2. Improves the efficiency of current services as follows:
  - a. provides for the more efficient provision of mental health services including having the availability of more professionals to offer weekend and evening appointments, the ability to make referrals to a more diverse group of mental health specialists, develop better internal quality assurance and peer review of clinical services and offer this greater range of services in one convenient and centralized location.
  - b. develop more intimate consultative and collaborative relationships with practice partners leading to better communication about client problems and needed services, increase in continuity of care and having greater access to clients requiring multidisciplinary mental health care.
  - c. having a medical doctor partner available in the office to immediately prescribe needed psychotropic medication to a suicidal and/or anxious patient saves the client from delays in getting appointments with local psychiatrists ( who typically cannot provide an immediate appointment for new patients because there are more psychiatric referrals than can be handled by the shortage of psychiatric professionals in the local community) and may, as well, prevent a suicide attempt that would overburden the already filled hospital emergency rooms with psychiatric problems that are not easily resolved and take up bed space required for patients with emergency physical ailments.
3. Since the government became involved in physical and behavioral health care practice, the establishment of reduced fee schedules, quality oversight and capitation issues have permeated the managed care of practices. Incorporation with other mental health professionals makes good business sense relative to sharing practice costs, ownership of real and personal property appropriate to the business and the ability to invest corporate funds in any form of real property, securities or other types of investments, enroll in group

health insurance, and participate in a 401k, defined benefit, simple IRA or profit sharing plan. Professional corporations are able to develop an economy of scale to minimize costs in a highly regulated and managed behavioral health service industry. Membership in such a multidisciplinary professional corporation will allow the partners to provide the quantity of required mental health services without compromising quality

4. Without passage of SB 65 these advantages cannot be achieved under the current law as it is written. This law does not adversely affect consumers, licensed mental health professionals, physicians, osteopaths and homeopaths. This law will expand multidisciplinary practice opportunities for medical and paramedical personnel alike.

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