

Good morning,

I write to you today to strongly endorse Amanda Garces and Mark Hage's response dated Oct 15, 2023 to Chair Samuelson's Oct 12, 2023 memorandum.

I urge the members of the State Board to retain the strong anti-discrimination definition put forth by the members of the Act 1 Working Group in the EQS. In addition, I ask that the State Board be transparent in its decision-making process and share, in writing and to the public, the legal analysis offered by the attorney who expressed concerns about liability about the differences between the language in Rule 2000 and in the 2200 Series Rules.

Finally, I would like to encourage the State Board pay close attention to this section from Amanda and Mark's response:

"The pursuit of consistency between these different rules should never come at the cost of substantively weakening or diluting proposed changes to the proposed EQS Manual that define discrimination, expressly prohibit it, and expand protections against it. That is what will come to pass, we fear, if the 2200 Rules language in the October 12th memorandum replaces its counterparts in the EQS Manual. Respectfully, the State Board must not let that happen."

Sincerely,

Paul