Medical Board of California – A Patient Bill of Rights

Consumer right to input at each stage of the enforcement process

- Interview a complainant before their quality of care complaint is dismissed.
- Give complainant the opportunity to provide additional information following the physician interview before investigators determine whether to refer an accusation to AG.
- Give complainant the opportunity to provide a victim impact statement at an ALJ hearing or before settlement.
- Give Board members access to these communications with patient consent.

Improved transparency

- Disclose pending investigations on medical board website in serious quality of care cases including:
  - Cases referred for accusation
  - Investigations on hold due to a pending criminal charge
  - Discipline on hold following a licensee’s appeal
  - An 805 report has been filed
- Disclose malpractice settlements and judgements.
- Require doctors to tell patients when they are on probation for negligence.
- Online complaint tracking to provide consumers real-time progress reports of enforcement cases.

Adequate discipline for serious offenses

- Bring California’s burden of proof in line with 41 other state boards by moving to a “preponderance of the evidence” from “clear and convincing.”
- Full investigation of serious injury and death complaints (standing policy for other medical licensing Boards).
- Deny reinstatement of license revoked for acts resulting in the death of a patient.
- Bring case outcomes in line with Board’s minimum disciplinary guidelines, and require public justification of any deviation from initial charge.
- Mandatory reports to law enforcement of criminal violations.

Increased enforcement funding

Public board member majority