

Hello, my name is Dr. Sonia Rendon-Hidalgo and I am writing to the board to express my concern regarding the EPPP (Part 1-Knowledge) pass rates and the impending addition of the EPPP (Part 2-Skills) in January 2026. To date, there is documented evidence that strongly suggests a racial disparity in the pass rates of Black/African American and Hispanic/Latinx test takers compared to their White counterparts (Saldaña, Callahan, & Cox, 2024; Sharpless, 2019; Sharpless, 2021). ASPPB has made the claim that there is no racial bias in the EPPP but lacks adequate data to counter what has been uncovered in the literature thus far. Personal anecdotes from individuals within these communities who have been expressing their frustrations for years also indicate the need for a deeper investigation into this matter. I have been studying for this exam since 2018 and have taken the exam 6 times. I also took 4 months off of work to study and was even placed on anti-anxiety medications to cope with the stress of this exam. In addition to the issues with Part 1, there are also concerns about the impact that Part 2 will have on the licensing process. ASPPB continues to disregard the multitude of problems Part 2 will inevitably cause as well as the insufficient justification that an additional exam would resolve concerns associated with skills-based competency.

Because of these serious concerns, I am requesting that the board investigate how the current Part 1 cutoff score is contributing to the dearth in representation of BIPOC psychologists in California and implement appropriate strategies to address this concern, which includes considering lowering the cutoff score. Additionally, I am asking that the California Board of Psychology take a firm stance against EPPP (Part 2-Skills) and follow the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists' lead in submitting a request to ASPPB to consider amending the bylaws so that Part 2 can be put to a vote for member jurisdictions. As an advocate for advancing the psychology profession for all psychologists of diverse backgrounds, it's important to ensure transparency and accountability to reduce the gap in service delivery and systematic barriers experienced by ethnic minority and Black psychologists. Now is the time to take corrective action that can not only positively impact the lives of individuals pursuing a license but also ensure more access to qualified and capable clinicians for community members across California. Thank you for your consideration.