

The legislation authorizes no new activities nor grants any new privileges to psychologists. I think that is important. It establishes no new pattern nor does it change the status of the relationships among any of the professions. It merely specifies who may call himself a psychologist or offer psychological services.

H.R. 10407 is similar in many respects to the laws in the thirty-seven states with regulations. It follows the guidelines established by the American Psychological Association, and it has the endorsement of that organization.

I also call to your attention the great amount of effort and consultation that went into the preparation of this proposed legislation. Work began on it in February, 1965, at the encouragement of the city government, and the bill evolved from consultation with a large and varied number of professionals and community service organizations. It was carefully scrutinized by the city government, especially the public health, medical, legal, and licensing branches. We were very pleased to accept the amendments they suggested and we appreciate their endorsement of this bill. Their thoughtful suggestions have made it a much stronger bill.

In particular, Dr. Grant pointed out that with the amendments the bill adequately delineates the practice of medicine and the practice of psychology and insures that the psychologist must defer to his medical colleague when there is a question of a medical problem.

In supporting this legislation, the District of Columbia Psychological Association is acting in accord with the Ethical Standards of Psychologists. Principle 2-A of those standards calls upon psychologists to "discourage the practice of psychology by unqualified persons and to assist the public in identifying psychologists competent to give dependable professional service." In 1963, the DCPA began a program of voluntary certification of its members, and it publishes a list of psychologists who have presented their credentials and passed the examination. It is a non-statutory program, and while it has some educational value for the public, it cannot protect our citizens against the unscrupulous and the unprincipled person who misrepresents himself and his abilities. H.R. 10407 would provide this protection, and it is for this reason that the District of Columbia Psychological Association strongly supports it and urges its enactment.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views.

Mr. SISK. Let us see, I think that Dr. Cummings has a statement that he would like to make. I might say that before the witnesses are questioned, we will get all the statements first and question all of you then.

You may proceed, Dr. Cummings.

Dr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, in the interest of time, I will give you just the main thrust of my testimony.

Mr. SISK. All right. Then, without objection, the entire statement of Dr. Cummings will be made a part of the record at this point, or an appropriate point in the record.

If you wish to summarize it, fine.

Dr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I might say, by way of reinforcing some of the things that Dr. Meltzer has said, that the professional psychologist or professional psychology has burgeoned out so much