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Mr. SISK. We will also make your statement a part of the record at this point.

(The prepared statement submitted by Dr. Brayfield reads in full as follows:)

STATEMENT BY DR. ARTHUR H. BRAYFIELD, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Mr. Chairman, my name is Arthur H. Brayfield. I serve as Executive Officer of the American Psychological Association, which has its headquarters here in Washington at 1200 Seventeenth Street, N.W. The Association, with over 27,000 members, includes most of the qualified psychologists in the country. Affiliated with the Association are psychological associations in the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Province of Ontario, and in all States except Alaska. Under our Bylaws, the territories and commonwealths of the United States, as well as the Provinces of Canada, are considered to be the equivalent of States.

In this statement, prepared at the invitation of this Subcommittee, the American Psychological Association wishes strongly to support the aims and content of House Bill 10407. We gave similar support to its companion bill, Senate Bill 1864, in hearings before the Senate District Committee's Subcommittee on Public Health, Education, Welfare and Safety, on August 28, 1967. The amendments made to Senate Bill 1864 are entirely in accord with the Association's national policies with respect to regulatory legislation for psychologists. As you know, Senate Bill 1864 was passed unanimously by the Senate.

In 1955, the Association adopted a series of policy guidelines for state associations to use should they wish to develop legislation defining and regulating the practice of psychology. An up-dated policy statement, based upon experience with the laws in the intervening years, was adopted by our Council of Representatives in September 1967.

Let me summarize, if I may, what our policy statement suggests as basic provisions to be covered in a law regulating the practice of psychology. First, the qualifications of the psychologist should be set at a realistic level, high enough to assure competence, but not so high as to limit severely the number of eligible psychologists available. Our recommendation is the doctoral degree in psychology and two years of supervised experience. Second, the law should not restrict qualified members of other professional groups from doing work of a psychological nature consistent with their training and codes of ethics, nor should it place undue restrictions on the work of psychologists in institutional settings. Third, a code of ethics should be a part of the law or of its regulations. Fourth, adequate provision should be made for the licensing of psychologists already certified or licensed in other jurisdictions with standards no lower; this is frequently called reciprocal endorsement. Fifth, a provision should be included to protect the privileged nature of the psychologist-client relationship. House Bill 10407 meets all these criteria.

There are now laws in 37 States and six Canadian Provinces. The newest law is a licensing act approved in the State of South Carolina in March of this year. It is our earnest hope that Congress will act favorably on the bill before it, thereby giving public protection for the citizens of the District, and, in addition, providing a model for those states still without proper controls. The public has a right to expect help in locating competent psychologist services whenever they are needed; a legal definition of who may offer such services is a major contribution in providing necessary safeguards.