

tie down the dialogue psychotherapy. I think this legislation should reflect this growing trend.

And, finally, I would like to say that the need for such legislation in this jurisdiction where I practice and live is considerable and would help in both private care and in the official institutional use of the professional psychologists.

As I mentioned, in matters of law, in matters of administration, and in matters of security.

Thank you.

Mr. SISK. Thank you, Dr. Zimmerman, for your statement.

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

Mr. Chairman, I am Dr. Isaiah M. Zimmerman. I live here, and am also in the private practice of psychology here in the District of Columbia. My professional training was also received locally, at the Catholic University of America, and included an internship in the Psychology Department of D.C. General Hospital.

I divide my time between practice and teaching. As Dean of the Group Psychotherapy Training Program at the Washington School of Psychiatry, I am involved in teaching group psychotherapy to professionals in the mental health fields. As consultant to the Air Force Hospital at Andrews, to the Veteran's Administration Hospital in D.C., and to a number of other agencies, I am closely involved with training psychologists to do marital and family counseling, and child guidance. Due to this experience I would like to offer an opinion as to whether the practice of psychology can be defined, to carry out one practical purpose of this bill.

On the other question, the need to regulate the practice of psychology, I too have an opinion to respectfully offer. It is based upon considerable "insider's" experience in my practice. I have occasionally needed to refer a client to a colleague; I frequently get calls from schools, lawyers, physicians, and clergy requesting the name of a qualified psychologist in their area. How does one decide? In a large city such as Washington one cannot hope to know and be known, in a close working sense, within most of one's own professional group. Even though I know that graduate training in psychology is exacting and highly regulated, it is still no guarantee against obsolescence of skills, or inappropriate or insufficient experience in someone who offers his services to the public. As more and more states enact laws covering psychologists, I do not want the District of Columbia to possibly become a refuge for the not-elsewhere-qualified practitioner.

I have studied H.R. 14007 and offer these opinions to you: In regard to definition, it covers the field very well, and in terms that a regulatory board could practically apply. In regard to the need to regulate the practice of psychology, it does exist. Further, the high incidence of administrative, legal and security matters which characterize a Washington psychology practice makes it crucial that both citizens and officials know who they can turn to for specialized consultation of care. I believe that this bill, if enacted into law, will provide a sound basis for the information and protection of the public in the District of Columbia in regard to psychological services.

Mr. SISK. The gentleman from Indiana.