

Since the psychologists have expressed to us their desire to regulate clinical psychology in the same fashion as industrial psychology, school counselling, and other nonmedical functions, and since they have refused to write distinctions into their bill, we can only ask that H.R. 10407 not be enacted into law, or if it is to get such consideration, that it be amended so as not to repeal or vitiate the safeguards of the Healing Arts Practice Act.

To this end, we have prepared a draft bill which follows as closely as possible H.R. 10407 and S. 1864 in those areas which do not concern the medical profession, but this draft contains the minimal safeguards which we feel are necessary to eliminate unregulated and unsupervised public practice. We request the permission of this Subcommittee to present this draft for inclusion in the record after the close of these hearings.

During the prior hearings on this bill, while the representatives of the psychologists' organizations were testifying, a number of searching questions were asked by the Subcommittee and elicited responses about which we should comment. Rather than try to anticipate the further questions of the Subcommittee, however, I will reserve such comment.

The other representatives with me would like the opportunity to make brief statements, after which we all would be most happy to try and answer the question of the Subcommittee.

I believe Dr. Hughes wished to make a brief statement.

Mr. SISK. Thank you, Dr. Legault.

Dr. Hughes, do you want to make a statement now?

Dr. HUGHES. Yes. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, my name is Dr. John Hughes. I am a member of the Executive Board of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia.

The Medical Society strongly supports the statement by Dr. Legault concerning H.R. 10407. The Medical Society commends the desire of the psychological profession to regulate their practice.

We must, however, express our concern that the proposed legislation does not specifically require medical consultation for those patients suffering from physical and/or mental disease.

Training in psychology, no matter how excellent, does not lead to clinical competence in diagnosis and treatment of patients with physical and/or mental disease. These activities are sharply distinct from psychological services in counseling, testing or group evaluation.

Many physical diseases, metabolic abnormalities and toxic states may first manifest themselves by mental aberration. These circumstances require diagnosis and evaluation by a trained and licensed physician. To allow otherwise would subject our citizens to medical treatment by persons lacking proper medical training and without medical licensure.

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia earnestly requests that H.R. 10407 be amended to insure continuance of adequate safeguards in the treatment of the physically and/or mentally ill.

I am grateful for the opportunity to express the Medical Society's concern. Thank you.

Mr. SISK. Thank you, Dr. Hughes.

Dr. Meltzer?