

NEW YORK LAW

Mr. HORTON. Doctor, I have a letter from the New York State Psychological Association. They refer to the fact that New York State has had a statute in effect similar to the H.R. 10407 for over ten years. This statute requires a person representing himself as a psychologist in this state be a member with a level of competence based on a doctoral degree, have two years of supervised experience and completion of the state examination. Are you familiar with the New York statute? I am not familiar with it and I wondered whether it is comparable to the bill before us?

Dr. LEGAULT. I am not personally familiar with that.

Is anybody familiar with that?

If you don't mind, I will consult with our attorney here, who is more expert.

Mr. HORTON. You might not be prepared to answer that. That is perfectly all right. I thought you might have some knowledge of that. The association in New York State is urging my support for the bill. They have indicated that New York has a law similar to this bill in existence for over ten years and it worked well.

Dr. LEGAULT. Mr. Cooter, our attorney, informs me New York State does not have a licensing law but a certification law.

Mr. HORTON. Perhaps you might for the record get something for us on that.

Dr. LEGAULT. We would be very pleased to.

Mr. HORTON. That would be helpful.

Mr. SISK. If the gentleman would yield, we have copies of all state laws here. Mr. Clark has them available. The committee will take a look at some of them. You may want to make a study of the California law. We have, as I understand it, a law that is working quite well. In fact, I put in the record in the last hearing a copy of a letter from California representing the group of psychiatrists basically in support of a general regulatory law for psychologists. The feeling is the California law is working very well. I have not had an opportunity to compare it with other State laws.

Is the gentleman from New York finished?

Mr. HORTON. Yes.

Mr. SISK. The gentleman from Maryland?

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Mr. GUDE. Thank you, Mr. Sisk.

I wonder if anyone would be able to comment on the Maryland laws that affect psychology as compared to what is proposed in this bill.

Dr. LEGAULT. So far as I am aware, Maryland law again is not a licensing law; it is a certification law. Do I have to go into the difference in this case? The certification law, one of the essential differences in the licensure laws, as I understand it, is that they spell out activities of a particular profession, whereas certification laws write out permitted activities but do not specify them as closely as a licensure law. The general position of the American Psychiatric Association since 1951, I believe, has been in favor of certification laws for psychologists. This protects the public by registering the title, psychologist, which is all that this bill does, to protect the public.