

SEC. 21. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of the revenues of the District of Columbia such sums as may be necessary to pay the expenses of administering and carrying out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 22. If any section of this Act, or any part thereof, shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of any section or part thereof.

SEC. 23. This Act shall become effective ninety days after the date of its enactment.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

RESPONSE TO PROPOSED REVISION (BY PSYCHIATRY) OF H.R. 10407—
JUNE 19, 1968

As part of their testimony before Subcommittee No. 5 of the House District of Columbia Committee, the representatives of the local psychiatric organizations submitted a proposed revision of the psychologist licensing bill, HR 10407. In the following remarks, we of the D.C. Psychological Association Legislative Committee will comment upon this proposed revision, section by section. In these remarks, let S. 1864 (in the form in which it was passed unanimously by the Senate on April 24, 1968) be the reference point. Typically, we shall note how the points raised by the psychiatrists differ from the original form of the bill and how the points which we are proposing bear on their suggested changes.

SECS. 1 & 2. No differences.

SEC. 3. The psychiatrists have replaced 3(E) (a medical disclaimer statement) with a new 3(E) which is a definition of counseling and psychotherapy. In our discussion of the next two sections (below), we will be expressing our dissatisfaction with (a) linking these two activities together and (b) separating out from the rest of the practice of psychology these two activities which are, in truth, only two of many tools and techniques used by psychologists. Some states have defined the term psychotherapy in their statutes; if the psychiatrists suggest that this be done here, we are happy to comply but would suggest for specific wording the definition of psychotherapy which is contained in the North Carolina psychologist licensing act:

SEC. 3(E) "Psychotherapy" within the meaning of this act means the use of learning or other psychological behavioral modification methods in a professional relationship to assist a person or persons to modify feelings, attitudes, and behavior which are intellectually, socially, or emotionally maladjustive or ineffectual. (Note that the section number is HR 10407's.)

For reasons stated below, this definition refers only to psychotherapy and not to psychotherapy *and* counseling.

We do feel that the medical disclaimer statement which was removed contains very important material bearing on the prevention of psychologists from practicing medicine and should remain in the bill. We have made it part of our suggested Section 4.

SEC. 4. It is very clear that here is an area of genuine difference of opinion between the two professional groups. Space does not permit reviewing again the bases for this difference, beyond stating again that they involve the nature of the terms "mental illness," "treatment," and "counseling and psychotherapy." We join such eminent psychiatrists as Dr. Thomas Szasz and Dr. Allen S. Mariner in doubting that the present level of understanding in the mental health field permits the degree of definiteness contained in the psychiatrists' rendition of Sec. 4. At the same time, we feel most strongly that the psychologist's client must be assisted in securing the help of any and all persons who might conceivably assist that client: law, medicine, engineering, educational and vocational specialists, and so forth. Thus, you will find this point strongly enunciated in our suggested Sec. 4, which follows:

SEC. 4. (A) The psychologist who engages in practice shall assist his client in obtaining professional help for all aspects of the client's problem that fall outside of the boundaries of the psychologist's own competence, such as, for example, in medical or legal matters. In those instances when a medical problem is involved, there must be effective collaboration with an appropriately qualified medical practitioner.

(B) Nothing in this act shall be construed as permitting the administration of drugs, surgery, or any manual or mechanical treatment whatsoever, by any per-