

Testimony on H.282

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The psychology section removes the requirement that the board of psychology examiners include someone from the public sector. It's very important that the make-up of the board include a member from the public sector. In fact the Board has not complied with this aspect of the law for a long time. Instead of removing it, we should recommend that it be enforced. The issues that impact psychologists in the public sector overlap with private clinicians but they are also different. For instance right now DVHA is proposing rules that would require that psychologists always be supervised by other psychologists only in order to bill for the service. This is not always feasible in the Designated Agencies and does not impact quality of care to have for example a licensed Mental Health Counselor supervise. This is coming from the board of psychology examiners and would have been actively opposed on that level if we had representation. Psychologists are only mental health profession that requires that. Additionally, when issues such as mandatory client disclosure or years allowed before licensure, we don't have a voice on the board.