

May Mizuno

From: Shannon Infante [shaninfante@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2008 8:14 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2385

**LATE
Testimony**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2385
Relating to Juries**

February 8, 2008

Honorable Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno and members of the committee, I would like to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2385.

Any type of Psychology practice, in urban or rural settings is frequently a one-person show. Given the sensitive nature of the work we do, it is very difficult to find locums tenens as physicians do, because most patients do not want to meet with a different provider in our absence. If one is able to find coverage, it is frequently for emergencies only, and the patient's care is disrupted. This is particularly a problem in O'ahu's rural areas and on the Neighbor Islands where a psychologist is frequently the only mental health practitioner for miles and caring for patients in crisis. Of course psychologists take vacations, but these can be planned for. And, for these very reasons psychologists typically limit their vacations both in length and in frequency. So, when a psychologist is called for jury duty, this adds another disruption to patient care. While a majority of Hawai'i psychologists surveyed feel jury duty is an important responsibility and that psychologists can play a unique role on a jury, this benefit is outweighed by the interruption in patient care.

Psychologists have been to the legislature many times in the past citing the shortage of mental health providers, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Despite the challenges in these settings we are honored to continue to be a part of the solution. As such, we are being asked to take on more severe cases of mental illness and regular treatment is a necessary step to avoid a patient decompensating or requiring hospitalization. Please give us this exemption to allow us to continue to serve the residents of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in support of HB 2385.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Infante
Clinical Psychology Intern

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2/8/2008

May Mizuno

From: Suzi Kiss [drkiss@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2008 9:49 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: HB 2385

Honorable Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno and members of the committee,

I would like to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2385.

Any type of Psychology practice, in urban or rural settings is frequently a one-person show. Given the sensitive nature of the work we do, it is very difficult to find locum tenens as physicians do, because most patients do not want to meet with a different provider in our absence. If one is able to find coverage, it is frequently for emergencies only, and the patient's care is disrupted. This is particularly a problem in O'ahu's rural areas and on the Neighbor Islands where a psychologist is frequently the only mental health practitioner for miles and caring for patients in crisis. Of course psychologists take vacations, but these can be planned for. And, for these very reasons psychologists typically limit their vacations both in length and in frequency. So, when a psychologist is called for jury duty, this adds another disruption to patient care. While a majority of Hawai'i psychologists surveyed feel jury duty is an important responsibility and that psychologists can play a unique role on a jury, this benefit is outweighed by the interruption in patient care.

Psychologists have been to the legislature many times in the past citing the shortage of mental health providers, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Despite the challenges in these settings we are honored to continue to be a part of the solution. As such, we are being asked to take on more severe cases of mental illness and regular treatment is a necessary step to avoid a patient decompensating or requiring hospitalization. Please give us this exemption to allow us to continue to serve the residents of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in support of HB 2385.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzi Kiss, Psy.D.