



Montana Psychological Association

PO Box 81334
Billings MT 59108
Voice & Fax (406) 252-2559
Email mpa@wtp.net
Website www.wtp.net/mpa

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Dear Membership of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee:

As we have stated in our earlier communication to the Work Group for SJR 35 (10/7/05; 10/18/05), the Montana Psychological Association (MPA) has been monitoring the developments within this committee closely, and its membership is both concerned and interested about these matters as without the specialized knowledge offered by well-trained and properly credentialed psychologists we are concerned that a Board may not be able to protect the public when dealing with matters that are so inherently private and sensitive.

And, to clarify our concerns here it is our contention that without the specialized knowledge offered by the regulatory actions of the Board of Psychology the Citizens of Montana would be *at risk*. The Montana Psychological Association is concerned that the Citizens of Montana:

- Would not be ensured the accountability and safety needed to protect them;
- This would be especially the case if services may be offered by unlicensed psychologists or other providers who do not have the training, supervision and experience necessary to provide these services;
- And, oversight for psychologists is provided by non-psychologists who are not familiar with the rigors of training, supervision and necessary experience that define its practice.

We are deeply concerned further that Montana's Citizens would be at risk of serious psychological injuries without the knowledgeable application of psychological principles offered by the Board as it now stands.

Established guidelines regarding training, supervision and necessary experience are currently well defined in Rules that govern the practice of psychology under the Department of Labor and Industry, Chapter 189, Board of Psychologists. Please note our statements provided in October and referenced above as well as the substantial requirements that govern the practice of psychology as it now stands under the current Board, *and protects the psychological health and welfare of the Citizens of Montana.*