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**My name is Dr. Reo N. Leslie, Jr. I am a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and a Certified Addiction Counselor Level III (CAC III). In 2005 Governor Owens appointed me as a Professional Member of the LPC Examiners Board where I eventually became Vice Chair. In 2007 Governor Ritter appointed me as the Mental Health Representative on the State of Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) where I served for five years (2007-2012).**

**All that I have accomplished as an educator, a mental health professional, and a three time Gubernatorial appointee began with becoming a Registered Psychotherapist in 1993. That is why I still volunteer my time to the Colorado Association of Psychotherapists as the Chair of their Legislative Affairs Committee.**

**There are six reasons this amendment is bad public policy. First; this amendment is inconsistent with the recommendations of the DORA Mental Health Sunset Review Report. DORA made no recommendation to alter registration. Second, it is a dangerous precedent for the Legislature to be used by groups in an industry to exclude other groups and limit competition and diversity within that industry. The marketplace serves that purpose. Third, this amendment kills jobs rather than create employment. There is no good reason to “eliminate” approximately 4, 000 small business owners and their ability to provide for their families. Fourth, this amendment will limit diversity and delivery of needed mental health care in lower socioeconomic communities and communities of color.**

**The licensed groups proposing this amendment are overwhelming White, just like the graduate programs that produced them. These licensed clinicians are unable or unwilling to practice in underserved areas. They expect to be paid more than uninsured and self pay clients of color or lower socioeconomic status can afford. Most Registrants start their careers as members of the communities they serve. Fifth, the amendment is unnecessary. CRS 12-245-203 already makes it a crime for a clinician to practice outside of their training, experience, and competence. Finally, these proponents of this bill have been less than authentic on the issue of Registration. In 2009 these same groups intentionally excluded Registered Psychotherapists from the professional development requirements established for certified and licensed clinicians. Last year these same groups opposed my bill to establish educational and training requirements for Registrants sponsored by Representative Coleman and Senator Williams. Yet; they criticize Registrants for not having the training they opposed them getting.**

**This amendment is a solution in search of a problem that does not exist. The system of five levels of mental health regulation in Colorado is not broken. It does not need fixing as this amendment implies. Passage would reduce diversity, limit consumer choice, and further historical injustices in our industry rooted in classism and racism.**

**Please feel free to ask me any questions.**

**Sincerely,**

**Reo Leslie, D.Min., LMFT, LPC, CAC III, RPT-S, MAC  
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**School Director, The Colorado School for Family Therapy  
Founder and President, The Colorado Mental Health Professionals  
Association**

**Director, Mental Health Professionals United Small Donor Committee**