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Dear Honorable Public Health and Human Services Committee Members:

My name is Jason Shankle. I am a Registered Psychotherapist, Certified Cognitive Behavioral Therapist, Certified Addictions Psychotherapist, Certified Family Mediator, Certified Motivational Interviewing Therapist. Masters in Psychology from Regis University. I will be graduating with my Doctorate in Higher Education from the University of Denver in June 2021. I taught Psychology at the Community College of Denver for 5 years. In 2018 Governor Polis appointed me to the Community Corrections Advisory Council. I am the Founder of Inner Self and Wisdom, LLC and a community activist. I have done numerous podcasts shows including Friday mail with the Mayor about healing the community and shattering this myth of therapy and I am widely known as a Registered Psychotherapist in my community and the State of Colorado.

**Community Awards as a Registered Psychotherapist:**

2018 The Association of Black Psychologist: Community Service Award  
2016 My Brother's Keeper Award  
2013 Post-Educator Educator of the Year

I want to highlight beyond the smoke screens of how this will create a domino effect for professionals that are Registered Psychotherapist and bring more understanding of how this is just not a minor word change (5 reasons):

#1. Without being able to be listed as a Registered Psychotherapist this will not allow us to qualify to market ourselves on Psychology Today which from my personal experience makes up **over 60%** of client referrals.

#2. The elimination of Registered Psychotherapist will not allow us to be eligible to be providers for EAP programs (Employee Assistance Programs) which from personal experience **makes up over 10%** of client referrals.

#3. The extinguishing of the Registered Psychotherapist profession will kill contracts and partnerships with agencies seeking out therapist support not motivational and spiritual coaches.

A prime example: I have a NYC (Denver Youth Corrections) and Savio contract partnership where I go to Lookout Mountain, ROP, Gilliam Youth Center, Montview and the Marvin Foote to provide therapy services to committed youth. With all the violence and killing of youth black males in the city happening in communities of color is dire. Without being a Registered Psychotherapist, this would end my contracts and partnership which **makes up over 20%** of my business income, simply because I'm not a mentor or a coach I am a therapist. The removing of Registered Psychotherapist threatens that contractual language which is the reason why I have the contracts in the first place because I am a Registered Psychotherapist.

#4. Many Registered Psychotherapist professionals will not be able to close their business doors in order to go to school full-time nor afford it when they are operating a full business. This "5 year" grandparenting is nothing more than a future stone walling technique.

#5. The **60%** or more client referrals coming from Psychology Today, **10%** of EAP client referrals with **20%** client referrals coming from contract/partnerships based on contractual language that was established because of being a Registered Psychotherapist. Adding up these referral streams comes to **90% average** of a Registered Psychotherapist operating business being destroyed through removing this term Registered Psychotherapist. So, tell me if you only had **10%** of your functioning business could you keep your business doors open to survive? I highly doubt it. That's like having a car without an engine. Gorgeous to the eye but how far can you go? Nowhere.

The elimination of Registered Psychotherapist is the greatest threat to the mental health industry current day and communities of color because of the stigmatization of "therapy" rooted in classism, schisms, and racism. Cultural incompetency is what creates this disconnect in the communities of color and we must understand people are not objects and/or science experiments they have souls and are human beings. Over my successful 3-year private practice for the sake of this debate I hypothesize that I have helped save over 20,000 clients from suicide, homicide, and numerous forms of abuse. Which I've also seen people save other people without degrees as well but solely because they were healers and empaths. Is eliminating the Registered Psychotherapist title worth jeopardizing the possible loss of some one's life? Many of my clients I have built unbreakable rapport and trust with as a therapist and to monopolize this industry to eliminate healers at the risk of the public good in dangerous. The burning question is about saving lives because we are all are needed. This will choke healing and humanity over a title... We are all supposedly here to for the greater good of humanity correct... We are searching for a problem that never and still doesn't exist. Oppose this HB20-1206 amendment for the sake of humanity.