



Jovan Melton <rep.jovanmelton@gmail.com>

HB15-1082 - YES

1 message

Heather Crawford <HCrawford@ahinc.org>

Fri, Jan 23, 2015 at 2:01 PM

To: "jovan.melton.house@state.co.us" <jovan.melton.house@state.co.us>

January 23, 2015

Dear Jovan Melton,

I am writing to you as one of more than 5000 Registered Psychotherapists living and working in Colorado. I request that you vote **YES** on **passing of HB15-1082**, the Statute of Limitations for DORA complaints bill.

The ability to file complaints (even anonymously) with DORA, or to take civil and/or criminal actions provides protection for the consumer as well as for the mental health professional providing services. The ability to file complaints with DORA provides protection for consumers and supports the integrity and sound ethical practices of our profession.

However, it is crucially important to have a statute of limitations, as after clients complete work with us, we no longer have any influence over their evaluation of their therapeutic experience, or state of mental health. Currently there is no statute of limitation for complaints filed against psychotherapists.

The State of Colorado has a time limitation on board complaints for other professionals in order to enable claims to be adjudicated while witnesses still have fresh recollection regarding facts, and to allow licensed professionals to defend themselves from fraudulent allegations. Therefore, we need a statute of limitation that correlated to the time required to keep records.

For this reason I, Heather Crawford, LAC #192, LPC #5983 request your support of **(Bill HB15-1082)**, which **would make** the period of limitations for licensing board complaints the same as the statute of limitations for malpractice actions.

Sincerely

Heather Crawford, NCC, MAC, LAC, LPC



Jovan Melton <rep.jovanmelton@gmail.com>

(no subject)

1 message

Carrie DuPont <dupontcfi@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 23, 2015 at 6:49 AM

To: dan.pabon.house@state.co.us, paulrosenthal5280@gmail.com, lori.saine.house@state.co.us, jack.tate.house@state.co.us, jovan.melton.house@state.co.us, john.buckner.house@state.co.us, justin.everett.house@state.co.us, joann.ginal.house@state.co.us, patrick.neville.house@state.co.us

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you as one of more than 5700 Licensed Professional Counselors living and working in Colorado. I request that you vote **YES** on **passing of HB15-1082**, the Statute of Limitations for DORA complaints bill.

The ability to file complaints (even anonymously) with DORA or to take civil and/or criminal actions provides protection for the consumer as well as for the mental health professional providing services. The ability to file complaints with DORA provides protection for consumers and supports the integrity and sound ethical practices of our profession.

However, it is crucially important to have a statute of limitations, as after clients complete work with us, we no longer have any influence over their evaluation of their therapeutic experience, or state of mental health. Currently there is no statute of limitation for complaints filed against psychotherapists. The State of Colorado has a time limitation on board complaints for other professionals in order to enable claims to be adjudicated while witnesses still have fresh recollection regarding facts, and to allow licensed professionals to defend themselves from fraudulent allegations. Therefore, we need a statute of limitation that correlated to the time required to keep records.

For this reason I, Carrie DuPont (LPC0011503) request your support of **Bill HB15-1082**, which would make the period of limitations for licensing board complaints the same as the statute of limitations for malpractice actions.

Sincerely

Carrie DuPont



Jovan Melton <rep.jovanmelton@gmail.com>

HB15-1082: Statute of Limitations for DORA complaints

2 messages

holtby@denverpsychotherapy.net <holtby@denverpsychotherapy.net>

Thu, Jan 15, 2015 at 2:18 PM

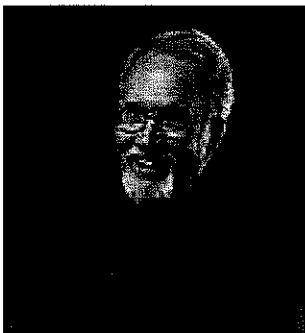
To: jovan.melton.house@state.co.us, john.buckner.house@state.co.us, justin.everett.house@state.co.us, joann.ginal.house@state.co.us, patrick.neville.house@state.co.us, dan.pabon.house@state.co.us, paulrosenthal5280@gmail.com, lori.saine.house@state.co.us, jack.tate.house@state.co.us

Dear Representatives,

I am a licensed clinical social worker who was in full-time private practice for 37 years in Denver. I just retired as of last July. In the process of closing my office I shredded hundreds of files, keeping only those for clients I have seen in the past seven years. I am concerned that if HB15-1082 does not pass I will be hard-pressed to defend myself against a Board complaint. In my almost four decades of practice I have been through two complaints – both dismissed – and a lawsuit. The latter was from a man I never met who asserted I put a green laser light in his eye (*while he was in California & and I was in Colorado*), and he's never been the same since. You can see that when dealing with the mentally ill we are particularly vulnerable to complaints that are without a rational basis. My professional liability insurance covered my legal costs, which despite it being a straight-forward case, cost tens of thousands of dollars. In retirement how long should I maintain my liability insurance? If this law does not pass should I keep it indefinitely?

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael E. Holtby, LCSW, BCD



Michael E. Holtby, LCSW, BCD

CompassionWithoutFatigue.com

DenverPsychotherapy.net

DenverPhotography.com

1Planet1People.org



Jovan Melton <rep.jovanmelton@gmail.com>

HB15-1082

1 message

Work <empowermenttherapyservices@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 21, 2015 at 10:33 AM

To: "jovan.melton.house@state.co.us" <jovan.melton.house@state.co.us>

Dear Representative Melton,

I am writing to you as a mental health worker living and working in Colorado. I request that you vote YES on passing of HB15-1082, the Statute of Limitations for DORA complaints bill.

The ability to file complaints (even anonymously) with DORA or to take civil and/or criminal actions provides protection for the consumer as well as for the mental health professional providing services. The ability to file complaints with DORA provides protection for consumers and supports the integrity and sound ethical practices of our profession.

However, it is crucially important to have a statute of limitations, as after clients complete work with us, we no longer have any influence over their evaluation of their therapeutic experience, or state of mental health.

Currently there is no statute of limitation for complaints filed against psychotherapists. The State of Colorado has a time limitation on board complaints for other professionals in order to enable claims to be adjudicated while witnesses still have fresh recollection regarding facts, and to allow licensed professionals to defend themselves from fraudulent allegations. Therefore, we need a statute of limitation that correlated to the time required to keep records.

For this reason I, Whitney Lockhart, (LPC #11501) request your support of (Bill HB15-1082), which would make the period of limitations for licensing board complaints the same as the statute of limitations for malpractice actions.

Sincerely,

Whitney Lockhart MA, NCC, LPC
Psychotherapist

www.empowermenttherapyservices.com
Phone: 303-549-7087
Fax: 720-789-7560
8120 Sheridan Blvd. #B207
Arvada, CO 80003

This e-mail and any attachments from Empowerment Therapy Services LLC are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. The information contained herein may include protected or otherwise privileged information. Unauthorized review, forwarding, printing, copying, distributing, or using such information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by replying to this message and delete the e-mail without further disclosure.



Jovan Melton <rep.jovanmelton@gmail.com>

HB15-1082

4 messages

Diane Wall <dianewall@westdenvercounseling.com>

Wed, Jan 14, 2015 at 9:51 PM

To: "jovan.melton.house@state.co.us" <jovan.melton.house@state.co.us>

January 14, 2015

Response to opposition of HB15-1082

To all concerned:

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice. I am concerned about the opposition of HB15-1082. This bill would establish a 5 year statute of limitations for DORA complaints against mental health providers. Without this limitation, mental health professionals could have their license threatened for something 10+ years ago. Documentation may not even exist anymore, yet we would be asked to defend ourselves. It is the nature of our business to work with and help people with mental and emotional problems. Many of these types of problems cause a distorted perception. Professionals protection from unfounded complaints and malicious accusations.

A personal example I can give is a client I saw for problems in his marriage. Years later he divorced her (I was no longer seeing him) and she blamed me. She threatened to report me, but didn't follow through. She has mental problems and continues to make false charges on several people who support her ex-husband. If I didn't have my case notes it would be difficult to defend my work with my client.

Please support HB15-1082 and give mental health providers the respect and protection we deserve.

Respectfully,

Diane Wall, LPC

SWAN Colorado <swancolorado@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 15, 2015 at 7:48 AM

To: jovan.melton.house@state.co.us, john.buckner.house@state.co.us, justin.everett.house@state.co.us, "joann.ginal.house@state.co.us" <joann.ginal.house@state.co.us>, patrick.neville.house@state.co.us,



Jovan Melton <rep.jovanmelton@gmail.com>

(no subject)

1 message

Jennifer Puerner <jenniferpuerner@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 20, 2015 at 5:01 PM

To: jovan.melton.house@state.co.us

Dear Jovan Melton,

I am writing to you as a mental health worker living and working in Colorado. I request that you vote YES on passing of HB15-1082, the Statute of Limitations for DORA complaints bill.

The ability to file complaints (even anonymously) with DORA or to take civil and/or criminal actions provides protection for the consumer as well as for the mental health professional providing services. The ability to file complaints with DORA provides protection for consumers and supports the integrity and sound ethical practices of our profession.

However, it is crucially important to have a statute of limitations, as after clients complete work with us, we no longer have any influence over their evaluation of their therapeutic experience, or state of mental health. Currently there is no statute of limitation for complaints filed against psychotherapists. The State of Colorado has a time limitation on board complaints for other professionals in order to enable claims to be adjudicated while witnesses still have fresh recollection regarding facts, and to allow licensed professionals to defend themselves from fraudulent allegations. Therefore, we need a statute of limitation that correlated to the time required to keep records.

For this reason I, Jennifer Puerner, MS, LPC, CAC III, (LPC # 5846, CAC III #6966) request your support of (Bill HB15-1082), which would make the period of limitations for licensing board complaints the same as the statute of limitations for malpractice actions.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Puerner

—
Jennifer Puerner, MS, LPC, CAC III
EMDR Trained
Facilitator of Dancing Mindfulness
710 Burbank
Broomfield, CO 80020
303-882-9065
www.livingyourdance.com

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom addressed. This communication may contain information protected by HIPAA legislation. If you are not the intended recipient or the person responsible for delivering this email to the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this email in error and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing or copying of this email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender by replying to this email and then delete the email from your computer immediately.

January 20, 2015

Dear Honorable House Members of Colorado,

I am writing to you as a Licensed Addiction Counselor living and working in Colorado. I request that you vote **YES** on **passing of HB15-1082**, the Statute of Limitations for DORA complaints bill.

The ability to file complaints (even anonymously) with DORA or to take civil and/or criminal actions provides protection for the consumer as well as for the mental health professional providing services. The ability to file complaints with DORA provides protection for consumers and supports the integrity and sound ethical practices of our profession.

However, it is crucially important to have a statute of limitations, as after clients complete work with us, we no longer have any influence over their evaluation of their therapeutic experience, or state of mental health. Currently there is no statute of limitation for complaints filed against psychotherapists. The State of Colorado has a time limitation on board complaints for other professionals in order to enable claims to be adjudicated while witnesses still have fresh recollection regarding facts, and to allow licensed professionals to defend themselves from fraudulent allegations. Therefore, we need a statute of limitation that correlated to the time required to keep records.

For this reason I, Justine K. Graber (ACD.0000471) request your support of **(Bill HB15-1082)**, **which would make** the period of limitations for licensing board complaints the same as the statute of limitations for malpractice actions.

Sincerely,

Justine K. Graber

KKatiesmail@gmail.com

www.HoldingHopeCounselingCenter.com

January 14, 2015

Re: HB 15-1082

Dear Honorable Members of the Colorado House of Representatives,

Hello, my name is Kimerely Walker, and I am currently a worker in the mental health field in Aurora. I am writing in support of HB 15-1082, for the purposes of establishing a Statute of Limitations for complaints made to DORA against Mental Health Professionals.

I feel that it is important that psychotherapists are protected. Although I have been in the field for a short time, I recognize the importance for both mental health professionals and clients to be protected. I am aware that some fellow psychotherapists participate in inappropriate behaviors that can certainly jeopardize a client's overall well-being. However these numbers are few and far between. There should be a balance of provision and protection for both the consumer and the Mental Health Professional. Clients have complete autonomy and various avenues to seek restitution including administrative, civil and criminal legal processes. There is nothing in HB 15-1082 that limits clients for filing criminal charges against professionals for actual harmful acts that fall within Colorado statutes.

As someone who has been falsely accused in my own life, I know it has been expensive and time consuming to finally prove a negative (that you did not do something). Our profession does not even need to legally keep client records beyond seven years. Our work is difficult enough in working with clients who often have a tendency to strike out at the very professionals who help them. Colorado Mental Health Professionals deserve protection like any other hard working professional. Your support of HB 15-1082 is appreciated by me and my colleagues. The opposition I read did not even cite a mental health profession responsible for the writer's alleged abuse. I saw no reasonable argument in the statements only reference to delays supposedly related to reported PTSD.

Please feel free to contact me at the email provided.

Respectfully,

Kimerely Walker
walkerkimerely@gmail.com