

was primarily psychological or a program of studies judged by the Board to be substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training to a doctoral degree in psychology.

Pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Board, effective December 20, 1982 (COMAR 10.36.01), the Board has repeatedly held that the Human Development Program at College Park is not substantially equivalent to a doctoral degree in Psychology. Sworn testimony before the Board by a faculty member of the Human Development Program and the position paper jointly submitted to the Environmental Matters Committee by the Director and the Faculty Chair of the Human Development Program, indicate that the program does not provide courses or practica that prepare students to practice as licensed psychologists. Additionally, students who express an interest in becoming licensed psychologists are discouraged from applying to the doctoral program in Human Development, and if students apply and state that they believe the degree will permit them to sit for the psychology licensing exam, their applications are routinely rejected. Further, the Board has indicated that 60% of all disciplinary actions resulting in revocation of a license were against University of Maryland Human Development program graduates.

The Human Development Program at College Park has been assessed by the Council for the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology, an organization comprised of representatives from major psychology organizations, including the American Psychological Association and the American Board of Professional Psychologists. The Council's objective is to maintain minimal standards for designated doctoral programs in psychology. The Council reviews and identifies in its National Register all programs which they determine adequately train psychologists. The National Register published by the Council is used by state boards and other organizations concerned with credentials of psychologists. I have been advised that the Human Development Program at College Park is not listed in current or past editions of the Directory of Designated Doctoral Programs in Psychology.

The Board, the Maryland Psychological Association, as well as the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards and the Council for the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology, for all of the above stated reasons, have requested that this bill be vetoed.

There are 17 approved graduate programs for training professional psychologists in Maryland. It is my understanding that Maryland does not have a shortage of psychologists. A November 1991 Sunset Review Evaluation Report stated that the State is not in danger of experiencing a shortage of psychologists because the Board has created a regulatory environment that is conducive to the growth of the profession without lowering standards.

I have been advised that this bill was introduced to help a few individuals who thought the Human Development program they were pursuing would qualify them to be licensed psychologists. I am sympathetic to their situation. It is troubling to me that they have spent so much time and energy to ultimately discover that their program would not qualify them for licensure. My decision today in no way reflects on the character or competence of the individuals who were the intended beneficiaries of the bill. However, after