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March 21, 2018

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

**My presentation:** I am testifying in favor of HB18-1180

**Background:** I am a Licensed Professional Counselor and a doctoral candidate in Counseling Psychology at Argosy University in Denver, Colorado. The goal upon completion of the program, I will provide psychological Interventions to treat patients with post cardiac surgical PTSD and traumatic brain injury. I completed two Correctional Psychology internships with the Denver Sheriff Department.

I am a Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel with 28 Years of service. Upon completion of military service, I worked as Systems Engineer for Martin Marietta Aerospace. In 2012, I was appointment by Governor Hickenlooper as a board member to the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Trust. I hold active memberships in the Academy of Medical Psychologists, Colorado Association of Psychotherapists, National Academy of Neuropsychologists, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, and the Society of Psychophysiological Research.

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**My Testimony:** I sincerely believe **HB18-1180** needs to be enacted into law. The idea that a DORA Regulatory Board can meet on the same day and sanction one clinician, which allows documents to be reviewed, and dismiss a complaint against another professional, which does not allow the disclosure of similar documents makes no sense. When I joined the US Army I took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. The idea that a State Government agency can initiate legal action against a Colorado and American citizen, without legislative oversight, operate in secret, and keep files about me from my review does not sound consistent with the Constitutional principles I served my country for.

It is my understanding as a citizen that government is supposed to foster transparency, information sharing, and open disclosure. Allowing me to review government documents relevant to my life in some situations and not in others, is not consistent or transparent. I have heard testimony by DORA and others that such knowledge would result in intimidation by clinicians, but they have presented no evidence of such. Intimidation of witnesses is actually a criminal matter that would be referred to a District Attorney. For such accusations to be made about hard working mental health professionals without research or facts to back it up is inappropriate.

**In conclusion:** **HB18-1180** will promote openness, transparency, information sharing, accountability, and appropriate disclosure in Colorado State government. Secrecy, lack of legislative oversight, and the inability by tax paying Colorado citizens and fee paying professionals to review State government files about them is not consistent with the Constitutional principles I spent 28 years in military service to defend. Thank you for your time and attention. I stand ready to answer any questions.

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