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Testimony on SB248:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. My name is Dorothy B. North, Chairman of the Board of Examiners for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors.

I think the best way to proceed is to go through the testimony section by section.

Section 1. & 2. The provisions under the psychologists and social work boards do not apply to alcohol and drug abuse counselors, specialist in the prevention of substance abuse and detoxification technicians.

Section 4: Provides the Board with statutory authority to certify at intermediate level persons who do not have a formal degree but who have extensive practical experience and who serve rural areas and Indian reservations.

The Board seeks authority to adopt regulations to certify as specialist in the prevention of substance abuse persons who now engage in this practice without any consistent training or oversight.

Regulation making authority is sought instead of fixed statutory provisions because the details of these subjects are sufficiently different from the subjects normally licensed under fixed statutory schemes and, because they are not yet fully developed, they do not lend themselves to being fixed in statute.

The Board contemplates adopting regulations that mirror in most respects the provisions of NRS641C, with different provisions tailored to the unique needs of the subject matter. Extensive workshops and hearings under NRS 233B will assist in the development of the detailed language.

The Board needs to offer an amendment, at the request of the Chief of the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse the Board of Examiners for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors seeks authority to adopt regulations to certify detoxification technicians. When certification and licensure authority was transferred from the Bureau to the Board the responsibilities for certification of detoxification technicians was in-advertently not transferred.

I wish to submit the amendment as a separate document.

At this time I wish to return to the remainder of my testimony.

Section 5 & 7: Under current law the board does not have express authority to require fingerprints and a criminal background for applicants or persons with existing licenses. While it is arguable that the board has implied authority to adopt a regulation that would require this kind of information from an applicant or licensee, the board would prefer to have express authority.

Section 8. Includes the new language from section 5 of this act.

Section 9: Based on the findings in a fingerprint report to grant authority to the board to deny an application, renewal or restoring of a license or certificate.

Section 10: The Board has implied authority to assess a reasonable fee to recover the cost of reviewing offerings of continuing education course, but the Board would prefer to have express authority to recover these costs. A calculation on a per-credit basis is not feasible because each course is very different, and a course of only a few credits can have much more explanatory material than a course of several more credits.

Section 11: Based on the findings in a fingerprint report to grant authority to the board to deny an application, renewal or restoring of a license or certificate.

Section 12 & 13: Language to include the new level of certification of counselors, specialists in the prevention of substance abuse and detoxification technicians.

To amend the language to include a regulation adopted pursuant to section 4 of this act. This language will allow the Board the authority to administer the statutes for those regulations.

The Board needs to request to amend the language in section 12 number 1.b. The Board is requesting to remove "or specialist in the prevention of substance abuse" as the way the language is written it implies that a specialist in the prevention of substance abuse is allowed to do counseling when in fact they are not.

The amendment was presented with the previously requested amendment.