

Curt Canning, MD, President
Utah Psychiatric Association
540 East 500 South
Salt Lake City, Ut. 84102

February 12, 2003

Dr. Randy Pennington
Wasatch Mental Health

Re: Senate Bill 137

Dear Dr. Pennington:

The Executive Committee of the Utah Psychiatric Association, for the second time in the last two weeks, met last evening to review proposed bills currently before the Utah State Legislature which could impact the identification, prevention and/or treatment of mental disorders. Just as we supported House Bill 5 which would prohibit untested, unprofessional and potential harmful fringe therapies, we are now on record opposing Senator Hellewell's Substitute Bill 137. We are very concerned about the welfare of Utah's children and youth who have already been - and would continue to be - endangered by coercive restraint approaches to emotional or behavioral problems.

We join other professionals and associations in opposing this ill-advised bill.

Sincerely,

Curt Canning, M.D.
President, Utah Psychiatric Association