

Dear Legislators: As a psychiatrist with over 40 years practicing and prescribing across the lifespan I cannot support this bill that would allow non-medical specialties, psychologists, to prescribe. I have been responsible for teaching and supervising physicians and nurse practitioners to safely prescribe psychotropic medications throughout the decades. When I ask psychologists if this is something they would do they repeatedly have said, "if I wanted to prescribe medication I would have gone to medical or nursing school." I am humbled that even with my years of experience there is something new to learn daily. Drug-drug interactions, comorbid conditions including heart disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, seizure disorders, developmental disorders, pregnancy, cancers...all have an impact on how and if medication will be prescribed. I would never be comfortable supervising a clinician without any medical background. I urge you to slow down the process here and examine closely what you will be authorizing. I would never want a non-medical professional prescribing to my loved ones. We need psychologists to do what they are trained to do and not what they have no medical background to do.

Most Sincerely,

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