

My name is Dr. Christina Vento, PsyD, MACP. I am a licensed Medical (Prescribing) Psychologist practicing in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where prescribing psychologists have safely and successfully served the public for over 20 years. I have been prescribing psychiatric medications successfully since 2008 without complaint, malpractice action or other problematic outcome. My work locations have included the State Psychiatric Hospital, clinics focused on unhoused people, on immigrants and at Indian Health Services.

I write in strong support of H.237.

New Mexico was one of the first states to authorize appropriately trained psychologists to prescribe psychiatric medications. Over two decades of implementation, our experience has demonstrated that prescribing psychologists provide safe, effective, and highly integrated care. We are trained first and foremost as psychologists—grounded in assessment, diagnosis, psychotherapy, ethics, and evidence-based practice—and then receive rigorous postdoctoral education in clinical medicine and psychopharmacology, along with supervised prescribing experience. The result is a clinician uniquely equipped to integrate therapy and medication management in a thoughtful, patient-centered manner.

Importantly, Vermont's H.237 proposes training standards that are even more robust than those originally adopted in New Mexico. The bill strengthens medical education requirements, and collaboration safeguards, ensuring that Vermonters would receive care under a carefully constructed and modernized framework.

In my daily practice, I see how valuable it is for patients—especially those in underserved and rural communities—to receive both psychotherapy and medication management from one highly trained provider. It reduces fragmentation, shortens wait times, and improves continuity of care. Patients are spared the burden of navigating multiple systems and repeating their stories, and treatment decisions are made with a comprehensive understanding of psychological and medical factors.

After more than 20 years of safe implementation in New Mexico, prescribing psychologists are a proven part of the behavioral health workforce. Vermont has the opportunity to adopt an even stronger model.

I respectfully urge you to pass H.237 to expand access to high-quality, integrated mental health care for Vermonters.

I am happy to speak with any legislators or their staff about my experiences and how helpful prescribing psychologists have been for my state.