

I am writing as a Board Certified Psychiatrist licensed in both Vermont and Colorado as well as 7 other states to express my strong support for granting prescriptive authority to appropriately trained doctoral-level psychologists in Vermont.

Throughout my career, I have supervised various mental health practitioners and have direct experience with integrated care models. Having worked in both states, I've observed how different regulatory frameworks affect access to psychiatric care. The current shortage of psychiatric prescribers in Vermont creates unnecessary barriers to treatment, particularly in our rural communities.

Seven states have successfully implemented prescriptive authority for psychologists who complete rigorous post-doctoral clinical psychopharmacology training. As someone who has supervised other practitioners, I can attest that doctoral-level psychologists' extensive training in psychological assessment and diagnosis, combined with specialized pharmacology education, prepares them well for this responsibility. Their unique background in psychological testing and therapy actually enhances their capacity to make informed prescribing decisions.

Based on my clinical and supervisory experience, I strongly urge you to support legislation granting prescriptive authority to appropriately trained psychologists. This evidence-based policy change would help address our critical mental health provider shortage while maintaining high standards of care.

Thank you for your consideration of this important healthcare matter.

Sincerely,

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