

I am a Board Certified Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrist, the Medical Director of Behavioral Health and Wellness of the Lamoille Health Partners Federally Qualified Health Center for going on 18 years, as well as an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and on staff at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston since 1983. I have trained and continue to train physicians in psychiatry for over 40 years as well as train psychiatric nurse practitioners for over 30 years. I provide regular consultation to primary care providers (family physicians, internists and pediatricians) as well as psychologists, many of them interns in training, in our Lamoille County Clinics as well as in clinics through Massachusetts General Hospital.

I do not believe that allowing psychologists to prescribe is in the best interests of our patients in Vermont. **I work with many psychologists all of whom have told me that had they wanted to prescribe to their patients they would have gone to medical school or nursing school.**

The nurses I have helped get credentialed to prescribe in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont continue to get supervision from psychiatrists in whatever state they reside. As a seasoned psychopharmacologist prescribing for over 4 decades I am humbled by the complexity of the drug interactions, medical comorbidities, new medications and regularly reach out to expert psychiatrists in the field of psychopharmacology whenever I have complicated cases and/or complications. I cannot imagine supporting any psychologist to do what I do and have to do as a supervisor of both physicians and psychiatric nurse practitioners. Without the medical and clinical training it is impossible to expect psychologists to be able to manage medication prescribing. Pharmacists who manage our prescriptions are also humbled as they are not clinicians and not always aware of how medications effect our patients.

Psychologists are trained and collaborate with psychiatrists with their unique skills and training. **They are not equipped to prescribe.** I fear you are harming the citizens of Vermont to allow them to prescribe.