

Greetings all,

I am reaching out again to elected officials regarding Bill H237 which would permit psychologists to prescribe medication. I hope I have emailed the correct individual to send this message further forward.

I am emailing to urge you all to please vote AGAINST this bill. Psychologists are NOT physicians. Prescribing medication is not something that should be taken lightly, especially medications that work on the body's most vital organ: the brain. If a therapist would like to prescribe medication there is nothing stopping them from applying to the appropriate educational institution, just like everyone else. Creating a short-cut to medication prescribing is unwise and is a disservice to one of the most vulnerable populations: those with mental health disorders. As it currently stands, I already have therapists who give inappropriate advice about medication, doses, uses, side effects, etc to my patients which has led to harm. This occurs regularly and has already led to significant issues. Please note that these medications can be fatal (for example, serotonin syndrome from antidepressants) in certain vulnerable populations.

Again, if a therapist would like to prescribe medication, they can always apply to medical school, PA school, or nursing school (to become a nurse practitioner), they should not be allowed a short-cut.

Thank you for your time,
Dr. Philip LaPlante