



American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

Ohio Chapter

To: Members, Ohio House

From: Concerned Medical Associations

Date: March 9, 2016

Subject: Physicians Oppose Legislation That Would Allow Psychologists to Prescribe

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Dear Representatives,

Yesterday, you received a request by Representative Kyle Koehler asking you to co-sponsor a bill he plans on introducing that would greatly expand the scope of practice of licensed PhD psychologists to allow them prescribe medication. **Our organizations ask that you hold off on co-sponsoring this legislation as we have significant concerns with any proposal that would grant prescriptive authority to psychologists.**

As physicians, who completed four years of medical school followed by no less than a four-year residency in the specialty of psychiatry, emergency medicine or other primary care specialties, we sincerely value the professional abilities of psychologists, and work collaboratively with them to treat patients who suffer from mental disorders. However, we believe psychologists do not have the medical training necessary (which physicians, advanced practice nurses and physician assistants *DO* have) for them to safely prescribe medication.

Our organizations are interested in working with members of the legislature, as well as with health insurance companies in Ohio, to discuss issues related to psychiatric services, including access, for Ohio's citizens who suffer from mental disorders. We feel strongly, however, that expanding the scope of practice for clinicians who have not been trained appropriately in the medical model for patient care jeopardizes the safety of Ohio's citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of our thoughts on this important issue. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss further.

Regards,



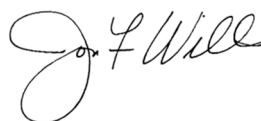
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