

**Illinois State Medical Society
Illinois Psychiatric Society
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
Illinois Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians
Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital
Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Greater Chicago
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatricians
Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society
Illinois Pharmacists Association
Illinois Section, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Psychologists Opposed to Prescription Privileges for Psychologists
Streamwood Behavioral Healthcare System
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists**

**PLEASE OPPOSE EFFORTS ALLOWING PSYCHOLOGISTS TO
PRESCRIBE PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS**

The organizations listed above which include mental health patient advocacy groups, physicians, clinical psychologists, hospitals and pharmacists remain strongly opposed to legislation supported by a small group of psychologists that would grant them prescriptive authority without meeting minimal biomedical education and training requirements.

The education and training requirements the psychologists are proposing in Senate Bill 2187 fall well short of the biomedical curriculum and clinical education of advance practice nurses and physician assistants who have earned limited prescribing privileges. Compared to a physician's education and training there is simply no comparison. For these reasons, we strongly urge you to oppose initiatives that would grant psychologists prescriptive authority without requiring them to obtain the biomedical education and training equal to or exceeding that of a physician assistant and maintain a collaborative agreement with a physician who prescribes psychotropic medications.

It is our view that allowing inadequately trained psychologists to prescribe mind-altering psychotropic drugs will put patients at risk.

The psychologists have failed to pass their legislation in all but two states. All other states have refused to pass their legislation because of the inadequate education, training and practice requirements. Should the psychologists agree to what prominent medical educators have proposed as appropriate education and training, we believe that more states, including Illinois, would grant them the important privileges that they seek.

Please continue to oppose Senate Bill 2187 or other legislation that would allow psychologists to prescribe drugs.