

Illinois State Medical Society



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Illinois House of Representatives

FROM: James E. Tierney, Vice President
Kimberly B. Janas, Assistant Vice President
Erin O'Brien, Assistant Vice President
John Potts, Illinois Strategies
Molly Rockford Illinois Strategies
Brice Sheriff, Illinois Strategies
Shaw Decremer, Shaw Decremer Consulting, LLC

RE: **OPPOSE EFFORTS ALLOWING PSYCHOLOGISTS TO PRESCRIBE PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS**

DATE: March 6, 2014

Several members of the General Assembly have been informed by proponents of psychologist prescribing that an amendment will be offered which addresses our objections to this proposal. **Please be advised that we have not seen this amendment nor been invited to discuss a potential amendment that would address our serious concerns.** We urge you to be very skeptical of any claims that this proposal has been changed in any significant manner that would qualify psychologists to safely prescribe psychotropic drugs.

Many organizations including 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.

Attached is a letter to the editor from a practicing clinical psychologist who opposes his profession's efforts to practice medicine. His insights form a persuasive argument why any legislation allowing psychologists to prescribe poses significant risks to patients.

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