

Prescription Privileges for Trained Psychologists



The **NEED**

- ▶ Florida is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) due to a lack of mental health providers, with only one psychiatrist for every 9219 residents (#10 worst in nation)

The **CURRENT STATE** of RxP

- ▶ Current states allowing: New Mexico (2002), Louisiana (2004), Illinois (2014), Iowa (2016), Idaho (2017), Colorado (2023), and Utah (2024). Also, U.S. Military, Public Health Services, and Indian Health Service.
- ▶ More than 25 additional states are interested in pursuing legislation; 9 are actively pursuing legislation for 2026 - 2027.

The **CASE** for **PSYCHOLOGISTS**

- ▶ Most medications to treat mental disorders are prescribed by primary care providers. Unlike psychologists, they have not received extensive training in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders.
- ▶ Psychologists trained to prescribe are also able to unprescribe, ensuring that all patients receive the proper combination of therapy and medication. A prescribing psychologist offers an integrated and comprehensive approach to care, saving time and money.
- ▶ All licensed psychologists are highly-trained health care professionals holding a doctorate (PhD or PsyD), with extensive training in the diagnosis and management of mental health disorders.

The **REQUIREMENTS**

- ▶ Complete an additional two-year master's degree in clinical psychopharmacology, pass a national standardized exam, and complete hundreds of hours of approved supervised clinical experience on top of standard supervision requirements.
- ▶ An interim panel, which includes a psychiatrist, pharmacist, and a pediatrician, will provide recommendations for proposed rules governing prescriptive authority for psychologists.

The **IMPACT**

- ▶ Appx. 10% of licensed Florida psychologists would add this to their current scope of practice.
- ▶ Prescribing Psychologists are safe and effective, already working in integrative care.
- ▶ Having prescribing psychology in Florida would help decrease suicide (5%) and increase access to mental health care (3.5%).
- ▶ Psychiatrists, Prescribing Psychologists, and Nurse Practitioners' performance on standardized psychopharmacology examinations does not differ statistically from one another.