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Dear Illinois Representative,

I am the President of the American Board of Medical Psychology and want you to know that our Board and organization fully support the action of the Illinois Senate to overwhelmingly approve of properly trained (at the post doctorate level) psychologists to add psychopharmacological interventions and prescriptive authority to their scope of practice.

You should know that other states and all of the military branches have active prescribing psychologists serving hundreds of thousands of patient with the greatest safety rating and lowest unit costs of any prescribing specialty as exemplified by research based "medical cost offset publications. You should also know that Medical Psychologists

have extensive required post doctoral training including anatomy and physiology, histology, biochemistry, general health assessment, pharmacology, psychopharmacology, and special population's courses. Additionally, they must complete a prescribing and diagnosing and treating Preceptorship or Residency under a prescriber who is a Medical Psychologist, physician, or nurse practitioner before being allowed to sit for a national oral examination and a national written examination.

The Medical Psychologist and the Psychopharmacologist are among the most trained and specialized psychologists and indeed practitioners in the mental health disciplines. These specialty psychologists provide coverage with specialized diagnosis, psychotherapy, and medication selection and management and monitoring that cannot be provided by other mental health disciplines that are poorly dispersed, available, and distributed. To deprive the public and facilities of these doctors out of tradition or guild opposition would harm the public, stop market forces and competition which help drive down healthcare costs and stabilize recruitment barriers in rural and underserved areas.

I encourage you to formulate and pass a bill similar to that passed by the Illinois Senate in the Illinois House of Representatives.

I would encourage you to minimize some of the Illinois applicant processing for licensure by affording "Reciprocity" in your House Bill for the American Board of Medical Psychology diplomats who have already passed credentials and training scrutiny at the highest levels (see [www.amphome.org](http://www.amphome.org)).

Please do the right thing!

Jerry Morris, PsyD, MBA, MsPharm, ABMP, ABPP, NCSC, ABBHP, CCM

Board Certified Medical Psychologist

## AMERICAN BOARD OF MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Web Site: [www.amphome.org](http://www.amphome.org) President: Dr. Jerry Morris Call: 660-424-3398 E-mail: [cmhcjerry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmhcjerry@sbcglobal.net)