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**Subject:** House Bill 3355A allowing psychologists to prescribe mental health drugs  
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Good Morning:

I am opposed to this bill. My background is a medical doctor/anesthesiologist and my Ph.D. is in pharmacology. I have great respect for the un-intentional side effects of psychoactive drugs, one of which is heart rhythm problems that can cause patients to black out or have sudden cardiac arrest.

Psychologists do not have the medical and pharmacology training in psychoactive drugs. This bill would put the lives of the mental health patients in potential jeopardy.

National and local physician societies have consistently opposed prescribing privileges for psychologists, primarily because of patient safety concerns arising from the complex effects of psychotropic medications on the body. While psychologists play an important role in the delivery of healthcare, typically they do not have a knowledge base for a thorough diagnosis of the patient necessary to safely prescribe.

Thank you for considering my input. Have a great day.

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