

Section 1: Prescription Privileges

The NEED

- ▶ Florida is designated as a HPSA due to a lack of mental health providers
- ▶ Only 1 psychiatrist for every 9219 residents (#10 worst in nation)
- ▶ Facing shortage of psychiatrists by 2030
- ▶ ¼ of Americans take psychiatric medications

The CURRENT STATE of RxP

- ▶ Current states allowing: New Mexico (2002), Louisiana (2004), Illinois (2014), Iowa (2016), Idaho (2017), and Colorado (2023). Also, U.S. Military, Public Health Service, and Indian Health Service.
- ▶ 27 additional states are interested in pursuing legislation; 10 are actively pursuing in 2023-2025.

The CASE for PSYCHOLOGISTS

- ▶ Most medications to treat mental disorders are prescribed by primary care providers— not received extensive training in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders, unlike psychologists.
- ▶ Psychologists trained to prescribe are also able to unprescribe, ensuring that all patients receive the proper combination of therapy and medication when they need it. A prescribing psychologist offers an integrated and comprehensive approach to care that can save time and money.
- ▶ All licensed psychologists are highly-trained, health care professionals holding a doctorate (PhD or PsyD) and extensive training in the diagnosis and management of mental illness.
- ▶ Graduate school for psychologists takes an average of seven years, with coursework that includes the biological basis for human behavior.
- ▶ After receiving their doctorate, a psychologist must complete between 1,500 and 6,000 hours of supervised clinical practice.

The REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Complete a 2-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.
- ▶ Nova Southeastern University is looking to bring back its program that was on hiatus until the FL legislature approves RxP.
- ▶ Prescriptive authority limited to PSYCHopharmacology.
- ▶ An interim panel, which includes a psychiatrist, pharmacist, and a pediatrician, will provide recommendations for proposed rules governing prescriptive authority for psychologists.

The IMPACT

- ▶ 10% of licensed Florida psychologists would add this to their current scope of practice.
- ▶ 5% decrease in suicides and would reduce the unmet mental health needs of Floridians by 3 1/2%.



Section 2: Insurance Lookback

- ▶ Florida health insurance companies can make claims for overpayment to a participating psychologist for up to 30 months after the health insurer payment of a claim.
- ▶ Statute was modified in 2008 to reduce the time to 12 months for providers licensed under Chapters 458 (medical practice), 459 (osteopathic medicine), 460 (chiropractic medicine), 461 (podiatric medicine), and 466 (dentistry). Omitted from this decrease was Chapter 490, psychological services.
- ▶ FPA survey to all Florida psychologists. Of the responses received:
 - 18% have stopped taking health insurance due to the 30 month lookback period
 - 61% continue to accept private health insurance; and
 - 21% never accepted private health insurance
- ▶ The legislation reduces the time to 12 months for psychologists.

If the lookback period were shortened:

- ▶ **32% would expand their acceptance of private health insurance;**
- ▶ 34% would continue to accept private health insurance as they currently do;
- ▶ 21% would remain private pay and accept no private health insurance; and
- ▶ 13% are uncertain what they would do

Shortening the period for health insurance companies to claim overpayment leads to increased participation by psychologists on health insurance panels; resulting in improved access to mental health care for patients with health insurance.



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The Florida Psychological Association (FPA) is a voluntary, member-based, professional organization comprised of psychologists. With over 1000 members, it is the largest professional organization for psychologists in the state of Florida.

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