



# Ohio Board of Psychology

Interested Party Testimony on HB326  
House Health Committee  
Stephen A. Huffman, Chair  
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Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and committee members:

I am Dr. Ron Ross, Executive Director of the Ohio Board of Psychology, an interested party to HB326. This legislation would enact new sections in the Board's enabling statute, ORC 4732, and require rule writing and additional administrative responsibilities.

Properly trained and examined psychologists have been granted legislative prescriptive authority at the federal and state levels, including the military, Indian Health Service, the Public Health Service, New Mexico, and Louisiana. Relatively recently, Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho, have enacted laws to authorize properly trained psychologist to prescribe.

Competence to prescribe has been defined with deliberateness and ongoing evaluation with multidisciplinary input into model legislation, model coursework, a supervised prescribing training program, and a national examination. The training model holds that competence and safeguards are established through the required completion of a post-doctoral master's degree in clinical psychopharmacology and supervised prescribing experience.

The Ohio Board of Psychology supports the concept that licensed psychologists with post-doctoral education and training in general accordance with the model psychopharmacology curriculum of the American Psychological Association and who have passed the Psychopharmacology Examination for Psychologists can safely prescribe medications used in behavioral health treatment. Expansion of the practice of psychology in Ohio to include prescriptive authority for appropriately trained psychologists could safely increase access to integrated behavioral health services and is in the public interest.

If through the legislative process a law is enacted that ensures the protection of consumers and expands the practice of psychology to include prescriptive authority, the Board is prepared to fulfill the responsibilities of authoring implementing rules with stakeholders from the medical and mental health communities and issuing certificates only to those qualified by education, training, and supervised experience.

Thank you, and I would be pleased to answer any questions.