

Testimony in Opposition to HB2589 HD2, Psychologists: Prescriptive Authority

HB2589 HD2 authorizes qualified psychologists practicing at federally qualified health centers or health clinics in medically under-served areas to prescribe a limited formulary of psycho-tropic medications and establishes a formulary advisory committee to establish and revise the formulary.

Patients receive health care from a team of health care providers. In pediatrics this team functions in the concept of the Medical Home. Each provider contributes the skills for which he or she has been explicitly trained. Psychiatrists are the team members who have been trained to use psycho-tropic drugs. Every day prescribing medications becomes more complicated and, in a sense, more dangerous. Psycho-tropic drugs in particular can be harmful for certain patients.

The Hawaii Chapter does not believe that this is the time to introduce new prescribers into the system which is already challenged in terms of patient safety.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter, oppose the passage of HB2589 HD2 based on these concerns.