**Call to Action: SB 2999/HB 5537 Letter Template**

Dear [insert Representative or Senator Name],

HB 5537/SB 2999 allows a specially trained subset of psychologists, who already exist in Texas, to deprescribe and prescribe medications for mental health disorders.  I believe this is a smart, safe, and effective solution to address Texas' prescribing shortage. We all agree that there is a crisis; 251 out of 254 counties are designated shortage areas and 170 counties have none at all.  Prescribing psychology is an evidenced based approach to address this problem and it takes prescribing psychologists a total of 10-12 years to achieve that level of expertise.

Insert several sentences with your personal story or reasons for supporting this bill here.

Prescribing psychologists have been practicing safely for 30 years. Unfortunately, Texas prescribing psychologists are forced to leave the state to utilize their training and provide critically needed services. Research indicates a reduction in suicide rates by 5 to 7 percent in states where they have been allowed to prescribe. Prescribing psychologists have lower rates of adverse drug events and improved medication adherence. Many of your constituents are struggling to access mental health care because of long wait times and lack of available psychiatrists. Primary care physicians do the best they can, but they are not experts in mental health. Texans need our help and I hope you will sign on to the bill as a supporter.

Please support SB 2999/HB 5537 and request that the bill be set for a hearing.

Add Closing