



March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the Psychologists in Vermont that are desiring an extended scope of practice to include prescribing rights. There have been pilot programs in the past and a small yet growing number of states and national entities (the Department of Defense, the states of Iowa, Illinois, New Mexico and Louisiana, as well as the Public Health Service, and Guam) that have been giving Psychologists prescribing rights to help their growing mental health needs, evidently with great results. To this date we could find no evidence of any detrimental effects that have come out of these extended scopes of practice.

As we all undoubtedly know, there is a lot of difficulty for patients to be prescribed the mental health medications that they need, and the evaluations necessary for those medications. This is, as far as we can tell, mostly due to a lack of access by these patients to find available and/or timely appointments to psychiatrists and/or nurse practitioners with psychiatric prescribing rights. The Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians is in support of Vermont Licensed Psychologists to be able to prescribe mental health drugs in the State of Vermont, provided there are additional hours of advanced training and examinations for competency that meets or exceeds the standards demanded by; the Board of Psychological Examiners in the State of Vermont, the Office of Professional Regulation in Vermont, and the American Psychological Association.

As many of our physicians refer our mental health patients to specialists, and have a difficult time referring them for the care that they need in a timely manner, we are very pleased to know that there will hopefully be very well trained specialists that can help be a part of the health care team to support more Vermonters with their mental health needs.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact our association via phone (802-238-8603), email ([drcourtneybowers@gmail.com](mailto:drcourtneybowers@gmail.com)), or mail (VANP PO BOX 4351 Burlington, VT 05405).

Sincerely and on behalf of the VANP,

*Joshua Green MD*

Dr. Joshua Green  
Naturopathic Physician  
President, Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians