

# Idaho State UNIVERSITY

Kasiska Division of Health Sciences

*Vice President for Health Sciences*

921 South 8th Avenue, Stop 8055 • Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8055

March 2, 2017

Honorable Fred Wood  
Chairman, House Health and Welfare Committee  
Idaho Legislature  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Representative Dr. Wood:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on legislation proposed by the Idaho Psychological Association to allow qualifying psychologists a provisional certificate of prescriptive authority. At Idaho State University, our role is to provide leadership in the delivery of health care by educating caring and competent professionals across all dimensions of health and to promote collaborative research and practice in the health sciences. Clearly, the delivery of mental health care services in Idaho is a critical need; every square inch of the state is a mental health Professional Shortage Area according to workforce data.

However, the needs for mental health services extend beyond the border of our state. We have had conversations with Dr. Yaron (Ron) Rabinowitz, senior prescribing psychologist in the Navy and specialty advisor for prescribing psychologists in the military. We look forward to working with him on a program that would meet the needs of our military as well as those in private practice.

I have reviewed the proposed legislation including the curricular requirements of the clinical psychopharmacology program. Idaho State University is optimally positioned to provide this type of training. We have faculty with tremendous expertise in neuroscience, psychopharmacology, psychology, anatomy, pathophysiology, physical assessment, research methods and ethics. Of course, any new program requires approvals by both the University and the State Board of Education. This process takes several months, but is not anticipated to be a barrier given the incredible need for enhancing the delivery of mental health services and our campus-wide mission. Should the legislature choose to enact this privilege, ISU will endeavor to take a proposal to the State Board of Education for approval with the goal of offering classes as soon as fall of 2018.

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Our expertise and mission places ISU in a prime position to provide the training program required to prepare psychologists for meeting the standards necessary to qualify for a certificate of prescriptive authority in psychopharmacology. We look forward to passage of this legislation in order to help meet the critical health care needs of Idaho.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex W. Force". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rex" being the most prominent.

Rex W. Force, PharmD, BCPS, FCCP  
Vice President of Health Sciences

cc: Deborah Katz, Executive Director, IPA  
Kris Ellis, IPA Legislative Liaison  
Page Haviland, PhD, President, IPA  
Paul Cady, PhD, Dean, ISU College of Pharmacy