

WELCOME!

Dear HPMA Members:

We are so pleased that you are part of our coalition! Partnership for Access to Safe Care, a coalition of health care professionals and concerned community members, is working to improve access to mental health care in the most effective and safe manner possible.

Members of our coalition actively participate in and support the further development of alternative models for delivering care that will provide greater access to appropriate care for individuals with mental health problems.

We are also working to prevent the passage of legislation that would enable psychologists with inadequate training in medicine and pharmacology to prescribe medications. The bill introduced in the current legislative session would allow psychologists to prescribe medication after only a short, superficial amount of coursework in “psychopharmacology.” Equally concerning, the legislation proposes a curriculum developed by psychologists and for certification to be granted by the Board of Psychology.

As you know, greater access to drugs is not the same as increased access to care. There are many barriers that must be overcome to solve the problem of access to appropriate treatment. Currently, a shortage of prescribers is not one of those barriers.

As a coalition, our mission is to support programs and initiatives that create access to safe mental health care in our community. There are programs already in existence or under development to deliver safe care to patients in rural areas and on islands where there are shortages of physicians. We hope that you will support the programs such as ECHO, and speak up against the “prescriptive psychology” bill. Allowing medically unqualified psychologists to prescribe medications is not the solution.

Please visit us at facebook.com/accesstosafecare to learn more about our efforts and how you can get involved.