BACKGROUND

SB 993 would allow a "Medical Psychologist" (MP) who holds a post-doctoral Masters degree in psychopharmacology, to prescribe all psychotropic medications, including medications to treat side effects of psychotropic medication, "within the recognized scope of the profession" (with the exception of narcotics) and order and review laboratory tests in conjunction with these medications. The requirements for a post-doctoral Masters degree in psychopharmacology are not spelled out in detail in SB 993, other than to specify requirements for instruction in Anatomy and Physiology, Biochemistry, Neurosciences, Pharmacology, Pathophysiology, Health Assessment, and Relevant Physical and Laboratory Assessment, and Clinical Pharmacotherapeutics.

SB 993 is sponsored by the National Alliance of Professional Psychology Providers (NAPPP), and co-sponsored by Service Employees International Union (SEIU). NAPPP promises an online version of this course will be available if SB 993 is signed into law. MP practice in SB 993 is regulated solely by the Board of Psychology. The last major requirement is that MPs who have a conditional prescribing certificate "shall maintain an ongoing collaborative relationship with the medical practitioner who oversees the patient's general medical care to ensure that necessary medical examinations are conducted, and to be aware of any significant changes in the patient's physical condition." After one year, psychologists can apply for a permanent certificate, and, we assume from the way the bill is drafted, no longer have to have a relationship with a physician.

California psychologists in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 (ballot initiative), and 2000 introduced bills to obtain prescriptive authority. In the first three years only a single vote (the author's) was cast in favor of the bill and each died in committee. The ballot initiative failed to gather enough signatures to qualify for the ballot. In 2000, a bill SB 1144 allowing Department of Defense prescribing psychologists to practice in California passed their first committee and deadlocked on a 6-6 vote in the second committee hearing it. Now we face a very tough group of Senator for the CPA in the Senate Business and Professions Committee.

Also, PLEASE NOTE: Senate Business and Professions Committee Vice-Chair **Sam Aanestad** was the author of a psychologist prescribing bill SB 1144 (2000)! If you are a constituent of his it will be good to put some pressure on him, but don't be rude or offensive, and don't necessarily expect positive results. We DO need to keep up the pressure and not make it easy for the authors to move their bills!!

WE NEED *YOUR* HELP TO WRITE LETTERS!!!

SB 993 CPA FACT SHEET

1. **Mental illnesses are biologically based, genetically influenced, diseases of the brain. Persons with mental illness are already among the most stigmatized and discriminated against of our citizens. We owe it to them not to support proposals that perpetuate more stigma and discrimination. SB 993 does this, if we were talking about treatment of cancer, or diabetes or heart disease we wouldn't be having this discussion.**

2. **In granting the Board of Psychology authority to create, develop and regulate a practice of medicine, SB 993 overturns the entire California statutory scheme of providing consumer protection in the delivery of health care services by allowing non-medically trained personnel to design medical practice education and for non-medically trained individuals to practice medicine.**

3. **SB 993 is unlike other scope expansion proposals involving optometrists, oral surgeons, and podiatrists (expanding into the practice of ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons and orthopedic physicians respectively) because these three aspiring professions require fundamental medical education for licensure. SB 993 does not propose, and current psychology licensure does not require, the sort of fundamental medical training acquired in medical school and not available anywhere else.**

4. **SB 993 would grant psychologists *independent* authority to prescribe with *less training* than Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants, both of which are authorized to prescribe medications *only* under the *supervision* of a physician and have fundamental medical education.**

5. **Access to psychiatric care is improving. We don't need non-medically trained individuals attempting to practice psychiatry. It is not only unsafe, it isn't necessary.**
   - **Highly qualified medical school graduates apply in numbers greater than the available residency training slots in California.**
   - **California psychiatric residency programs have increased capacity in the last 5 years.**
   - **The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA - Proposition 63) will further expand psychiatric residency training programs.**
   - **The MHSA will double the number of graduating psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioners.**
   - **The MHSA will establish the first advanced psychiatric specialty training for physician assistants in California.**
   - **The MHSA will expand telepsychiatry capacity beyond networks developed since 2000.**
   - **Proposition 1D, passed last November, will expand the University of California's medical schools (and psychiatric residency programs) and enhance its capacity to provide telehealth, including telepsychiatry, with $200 million devoted solely to this enhanced telehealth capacity.**

SENATE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE						
Legislator	**Capitol Office Room Number**	**Capitol Phone**	**Capitol Fax**	**District Phone**	**District Fax**	**District Address**
Sam Aanestad – R (Vice Chair)	2054	916-651-4004	916-445-7750	530-470-1846	530-470-1847	200 Providence Mine, Ste 108 Nevada City, 95959
Additional District Office				530-225-3142	530-225-3207	2400 Washington Ave, Ste 301 Redding, CA 96001
Ellen Corbett - D	3092	916-651-4010	916-327-2433	510-577-2300	510-577-2308	1057 MacArthur Blvd, Ste 206 San Leandro, CA 94577
Jeff Denham - R	3076	916-651-4012	916-445-0773	209-577-6592	209-577-4963	1231 Eighth St, Ste 175 Modesto, CA 95354
Additional District Office				209-726-5495	209-726-5498	1640 N St, Ste 210 Merced, CA 95340
Dean Florez - D	5061	916-651-4016	916-327-5989	559-264-3070	559-445-6506	2550 Mariposa Mall, Ste 2016 Fresno, CA 93721
Additional District Office				661-395-2620	661-395-2622	1800 30th St, Ste 350 Bakersfield, CA 99301
Tom Harman - D	2052	916-651-4035	916-445-9263	714-957-4555	714-957-4560	950 S Coast Dr, Ste 240 Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Mark Ridley-Thomas (Chair)-D	4061	916-651-4026	916-445-8899	310-641-4391	N/A	600 Corporate Pointe, Ste 1020 Culver City, CA 90230
Joe Simitian - D	2080	916-651-4011	916-323-4529	831-425-0401	831-425-5124	701 Ocean St Rm 318A Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Additional District Office				650-688-6384	650-688-6370	160 Town & Country Village Palo Alto, CA 94301
Leland Yee, PhD - D	4048	916-651-4008	916-327-2186	650-340-8840	N/A	400 S El Camino Real, Ste 630 San Mateo, CA 94402
Additional District Office				425-557-7857	N/A	455 Golden Gate Ave, Ste 14200 San Francisco, CA 94102