



**NEW JERSEY
PSYCHIATRIC
ASSOCIATION**

A District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association



NJCCAP
New Jersey Council
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

February 20, 2013

Honorable Sheila Oliver
15-33 Halstead Street, Suite 202
East Orange NJ 07018

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the New Jersey Psychiatric Association, the Medical Society of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, we thank you for meeting with us. We are proudly joined by a coalition of organizations including the New Jersey Alliance of Family Support Organizations and the Psychologists Opposed to Prescription Privileges for Psychologists in opposition to A-2419. Together, we are very concerned about maintaining high medical standards for public safety. We appreciate your devoting the time from your busy schedule for you to share your views on this important matter and for us to answer your questions about the bill.

Although there is a shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists in New Jersey, there is a better way to address this shortage that does not lower medical standards. The answer is collaboration, teamwork, the medical home model, and better integration of health and mental health care. For example, the Essex County Primary Care - Child Psychiatry Consultation Project: Improving Access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Care: Integrated Collaborative Care, is an ongoing project in which pediatricians and child and adolescent psychiatrists collaborate.

Our coalition strongly urges you to hold A-2419. Thank you for your time and look forward to your thoughts.

Sincerely yours

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President Medical Society of New Jersey
Board Certified in Family Medicine Diplomate
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American Academy of Family Physicians Medical Director, Graduate Medical Education Virtua Health

continued



Debra Koss, MD, DABPN

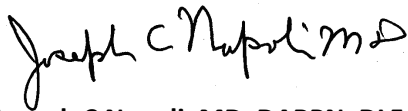
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