



## Think first!

- ❖ The safety of Oklahoma's mentally ill citizens should not be lost in a political debate. Patient safety is always first!
- ❖ Allowing psychologists to prescribe medications in Oklahoma would be a high-risk experiment and a **Prescription for Disaster**.
- ❖ Anyone can fill out a prescription pad. Understanding how a prescribed medication may affect the body including the brain requires a physician's expertise and training from medical school. **Psychologists have no medical training.**
- ❖ Medications for the treatment of mental illnesses are among the most potentially dangerous drugs for patients, and when not properly used, can cause convulsions, epilepsy, heart arrhythmia, blood diseases, coma, stroke or even death.
- ❖ A psychiatrist is a medical physician trained to diagnose and treat medical-psychiatric illnesses. Many psychiatric symptoms are the result of an underlying medical condition.
- ❖ Health care costs are already high enough. Granting psychologists prescribing authority will increase health care costs since psychologists' liability insurance would rise and additional regulatory resources would be needed. These costs would be passed on to patients and taxpayers.