

House Resolution 1819

By: Representative Cox of the 102nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Prescriptive Authority of Psychologists; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, it has been held by some that prescribing privileges for psychologists should
4 be pursued in order to improve the availability of comprehensive, quality mental health care;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, prescription medication is an important component of affordable and accessible
7 mental health services; and

8 WHEREAS, under existing state law, patients needing psychotropic medications must obtain
9 prescriptions from psychiatrists, who are in shorter supply and often charge higher rates; and

10 WHEREAS, many patients who need both psychotherapy and medication must see separate
11 practitioners, adding inconvenience and cost to their care, which can pose a substantial
12 burden in underserved rural areas; and

13 WHEREAS, a comprehensive evaluation of the limitations on the availability of prescription
14 medications is necessary to determine if current statutory restrictions require modification.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
16 there is created the House Study Committee on Prescriptive Authority of Psychologists to
17 be composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the
18 Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall designate one member as the chairperson
19 of the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
21 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
22 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may

1 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
2 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
3 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
4 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
5 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
6 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
7 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee
8 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
9 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2006. The
10 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2006.