

# National Center for Youth Law PsychDrugs Action Campaign



## Psychotropic Medication Bill Package

### SB 319

Issue: Public Health Nurses- Psych Drug Procedures

Author: Senator Beall

Principal Coauthors: Senator Mitchell, Assemblymember Chiu

Coauthors: Senator Monning, Assemblymember Gatto,

Assemblymember Gipson

Sponsor: NCYL

This bill will clarify the role of public health nurses and give them authority to monitor the care of children administered psychotropic medications. The public health nurses will assist caregivers and caseworkers to ensure lab tests, assessments, and follow-up appointments are completed in accordance with reasonable standards of medical practice.

### SB 484

Issue: Utilization of Psych Drugs – Group Home Oversight

Author: Senator Beall

Principal Coauthor: Assemblymember Chiu

Coauthor: Senator Monning, Senator Mitchell

Sponsor: NCYL

This bill will identify group homes that rely excessively on psychotropic medication, use such medications as the primary intervention for behavior problems, or employ other high-risk practices. When problem practices are found a corrective action plan will be formulated for safe and appropriate care for the children and youth in those homes.

### SB 238

Issue: Psych Drug Data, Alerts, Training, JV-220 form

Authors: Senator Mitchell and Senator Beall

Coauthors: Assemblymember Chiu,

Assemblymember Gatto

Sponsor: CWDA

Co-Sponsor: NCYL

This bill will provide for:

- Expanded training for foster parents, caseworkers, dependency attorneys, judges and others to include issues related to psychotropic medication, trauma and behavioral health services.
- Monthly reports alerting counties to high risk prescribing practices that may endanger the child's health
- Expanding the information provided to the court when authorization for psychotropic medication is requested
- Periodic review of court authorizations for prescriptions.

### SB 253

Issue: Support for the Courts

Author: Senator Monning

Principal Coauthor: Assemblymember Chiu

Coauthor: Senator Leno

Sponsor: NCYL

This bill would require:

- Judges are provided with additional information as a prerequisite to approving or denying psychotropic medication based on clear and convincing evidence.
- A second medical opinion for the most extreme prescribing cases such as for use with children ages 0-5, using resources identified by DHCS in collaboration with the Judicial Council.
- Periodic court review of medication's impact on the child's health and well-being.

### Contact

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