

1 **COMMITTEE: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

2 **POLICY: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES TO IMPROVE**
3 **THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO**
4 **CHILDREN**

5 **TYPE: CONSENT RESOLUTION**

6 NCSL believes the early detection and treatment of mental health conditions can reduce
7 potentially detrimental effects, such as difficulties with relationships, dropping out of
8 school, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Despite the need for
9 treatment, many child advocates, health care providers, researchers and elected
10 officials have expressed concern about the increase in prescribing of psychotropic
11 medications for children. Children in the foster care system are especially vulnerable
12 and deserve special attention.

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14 NCSL urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide technical
15 assistance to states to monitor and improve the provision of mental health services to
16 children and to improve the oversight of the prescribing of psychotropic medications to
17 children. NCSL also urges the department to work with the medical community to
18 develop guidance regarding behavior therapies that may replace or be used in concert
19 with medications to reduce the dependence of psychotropic medications as the primary
20 or sole treatment.