

Republican Themes
Hearing on Psychotropic Drugs and Foster Youth
May 8, 2008

1. Children in foster care often have serious physical, mental, and behavioral challenges.
2. Foster children should have access to the same range of health treatments – including medicines – as other children so they can overcome their challenges and grow up to be happy, productive adults.
3. The foster care system needs to carefully and responsibly establish that children need psychotropic drugs, and that they will benefit if drugs are provided them.
4. Recent research points to serious concerns about the appropriateness of current psychotropic drug prescriptions for foster children. Members should ask:
 - a. Whether these drugs that are being prescribed have been shown to be effective in children;
 - b. Whether children are being properly assessed before they are prescribed these drugs;
 - c. Whether children are receiving dangerous combinations of multiple drugs; and
 - d. Whether States have proper systems in place to monitor the safety and effectiveness of these drugs when they are prescribed to foster children in their care.