

SB 189
Testimony March 15, 2021
Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

Good morning Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Committee members:

I am Dr. Jacek/Jack Haciaak, Director of DynamicChanges LLC and a retired Psychologist, past administrator of several mental health programs in four states, and a person with life-long “mental illness.” My testimony is informed by my over 40 years of administrative and clinical mental health work and participation on administrative oversight bodies.

I do not support SB189.

Although I find the procedures this bill is wanting to mandate to be important for successful mental health system functioning, I do not find any need for the law to be modified.

The procedures identified already are required by clinical practice standards and professional ethics. From my own administrative experience and providing consultation to mental health organizations, it would be a very rare event if these steps were not implemented during a discharge for a trial visit. In fact, during a meeting of the Workgroup to Decriminalize Mental Illness, I asked in the chat discussion for data to support the claim that there is any pattern of failure to implement these procedures within the Oregon system. To date, no prevalence rate data has been produced.

An additional countercheck to system failure with these procedures exists. If a person is not provided the procedures SB 189 intends to mandate in the implementation of a trial visit and can show harm, they or a person with standing can proceed in civil court with a lawsuit. This potential helps hold organizations responsible for reliably implementing the clinical practice standards and ethical responsibilities.

Please reject SB 189.

Thank you.

Jacek/Jack Haciaak, Psy.D.