

March 24, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

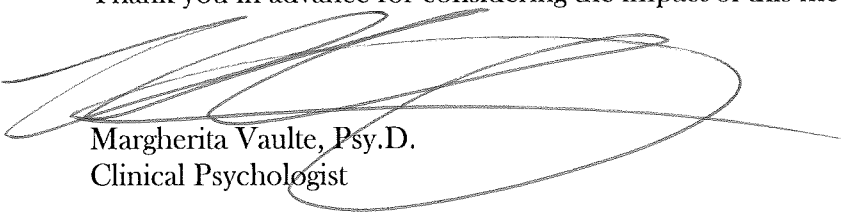
Re: **SB1114**

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in strong favor of Senate Bill 1114 to improve standard sentencing for the Guilty Except Insanity plea for two main reasons: First, our current practice punishes persons because they have a mental illness by mandating the maximum sentence while defendants have more flexibility and individualized sentencing when pleading guilty. Mental health treatment should not be a punitive but should provide a supportive approach that encourages autonomy, freedom, and best care practices.

Secondly, the current standard discourages many people from using the insanity plea honestly and receiving needed mental health treatment in lieu of less time in jail and prison. Many people opt to plead guilty thereby filling our correctional facilities with those who need more advanced and supportive care that these environments are not equipped to provide. This practice not only deprives an already marginalized and vulnerable population from receiving necessary care but is burdening an already strained system.

Thank you in advance for considering the impact of this measure.



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