

Submitter: Jerrod Murray

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety  
Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

Hello, and first off thank you Rep. Sanchez for writing this bill. I am a person in long-term recovery and a person who has worked in the SUD/Behavioral Health field since 2012. I have been a certified peer support specialist since 2020 and I currently serve as a Executive Director for a Native peer ran organization. While my work has been primarily with adults, over the course of my career, my experience has been that services for young people under the age of 18 have always been woefully underfunded and in many instances non-existent. When young people under the age of 18 were admitted they were kept isolated from the other patients in a room by themselves. Needless to say, every young person deserves a chance to heal and recover and right now we don't have the capacity to support our young people wanting treatment. This will help our young people heal. Our future is our youth. Let's start acting like it.