

Submitter:

Colette Adelman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2467

I writing to show my support for lowering barriers around civil commitment. My sister suffered from mental illness all her adult life and for years her symptoms were well managed and she was living independently. When she began to struggle with symptoms that were no longer being managed by her medication her life began to spiral out of control. Due to restrictions and unclear definitions of "Danger to Self" she was refused assistance. Several times, during winter months, she was left on the streets by law enforcement because she was not a "danger to self" even though she was wandering the streets, not dressed for the weather, unable to keep her belongings/medications safe, unable to remember that she had family that would come to her aid if they knew where she was. I tried to pursue civil commitment in cooperation with Marion County Mental Health but the State Hospital was not taking anyone that was not an "Aid & Assist" defendant. My sister ended up dying on the street of Salem from hypothermia. Our State and local government must do better! We must make it easier to protect and assist our most vulnerable populations.