



Good Morning Chair, Vicechair and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is, Kelly Del Carmen Sena and I work at the Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU). A little bit about my journey at SACU, I have been a SACU employee for about a year and a half now. I started my journey with working with individuals with intellectual disabilities, my senior year in high school through a mentorship program. I have always had a big heart for communities that are misunderstood and made to feel misplaced. I joined the workplace so I could make a difference in our individuals lives and help them find their own purpose.

As staff at SACU my main focus is to help our individuals live a prosperous life and have the freedom that we all enjoy. I truly feel that we at SACU makes a difference in their lives and helps them be productive individuals in the community. SACU staff mentors and guides our individuals to learn the basics fundamentals that they need to help manage their own stress, emotional safety, community interactions, guiding them through strong emotions.

Our individuals at SACU stabilization crisis unit need our 24/7 around the clock care/services. The hardest part of the job is dealing with dysregulated individuals that could harm themselves and our community members. We need more training, more services and opportunities to partner up with different organizations so individuals are able to make adequate friendships out in the community. Building lasting friendships is important so that they can transition back to the community with warm open arms, and learn to become better community members. Giving our individuals the chance to improve their social skills with community and peers. Having continuous mental health facilitators on site is important to support and guide our individuals as they process their trauma.

A lot of our individuals are learning how to cope with PTSD, emotional dysregulation, schizophrenia, fetal alcohol syndrome- to name a few. I would love to see our individuals reap the benefits of these added support systems and flourish in ways not previously available. Our main goal should be to impact the individual's life long term versus quick fixes. Essentially, the main goal being that these people are not just being cared for, but also fulfilled and given a feeling of purpose and belonging among our community. I urge the committee to fund SACU to ensure we are helping people succeed and not put them in harms way by adopting any cuts to the program.

Thank you for considering this bill and we urge your support on this important matter.

Kelly Sena

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