

Submitter: Patricia Camplair
On Behalf Of: my son
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2467

Our family supports this measure. We experienced first-hand how dire things need to be for involuntary criteria to be met. Our son, who has schizoaffective disorder, had many contacts with 911, ED visits, and brief admissions when very symptomatic. We pursued guardianship (cost of \$20,000) in order to try to get him help. He met criteria for both long-term and emergency guardianship, yet mental health facilities did not always honor this (a surprise to us). I could tell you many, many incidents that might have led to his death and a few that might have led to harm to others (family). He was unable to adequate care for himself due to delusions. He is doing well today, mostly because he eventually got into legal trouble, which then landed him in the State Hospital (Salem). He was there long enough (4 months) to receive enough medication to become stable. He was discharged to a group home (1 year) and then transitioned to a supported apartment (about 1 year). This longer-term treatment, along with a great peer support program (Washington County), led to his improved insight/awareness of his illness. He has since been compliant with medication and supportive outpatient treatment. His is a success story, but might have been a tragedy. We need better mechanisms that bring people to help outside of the legal system.