

Submitter: Marianne Straumfjord  
On Behalf Of: NAMI  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2467

I have practiced medicine for almost 55 years and 40 of them have been in Psychiatry. One of the saddest and most frustrating situations anyone practicing Psychiatry runs into is the inability to prevent predictable disasters in the lives of chronically mentally ill individuals. The current commitment laws, and often the interpretation of those laws put patients and their families in untenable situations and often results in criminal and life-threatening results. We desperately need the proposed changes to the law as well as the ability to treat and assist cases in their cells. No one should commit a crime in order to be judged unable to care for themselves or a danger to others before getting care for their mental illness.