

Submitter:

Sheilagh Griffin

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2467

I urge a no vote on expanding civil commitment and relaxing guidelines for civil commitment. HB 2467 loosens the definition of danger to self to make it easier to have a person involuntarily committed. I have a friend that was involuntarily committed under the current law without a lawyer, without an examination by a medical professional, it all happened too easily and they were put in a room with no windows, denied water, denied their personal belongings and not allowed to see daylight. They almost lost their stable housing because they had to fight to be able to contact a family member to pay their rent. Relaxing the law even more to allow MORE involuntary commitments is a terrible idea. These experiences are traumatic and not caretaking of these people.

The conditions are inhumane, the thirty day time line is extensive and arbitrary, the definition of "serious physical harm" is overly broad and non-specific. On current commitment laws require a qualified mental health clinician to examine the person to make a determination, removing this requirement is leaving the decision of involuntary commitment up to unqualified individuals and that is unconstitutional and inhuman.

People with mental health illness needs help, support, healing, nurturing not to be put in a windowless room and left for 30 to be returned to the street with no housing (because they lost it while committed), and no work and no money and no support. This law is a very bad idea. Please do not pass HB 2467!