

Submitter: Debra Torossian
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4106

Dear Officials

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the use of force against individuals experiencing mental illness who have not committed any crime.

The use of physical force in such circumstances is not only inappropriate but also harmful. Mental illness is a health condition, not a criminal act. Responding with force to someone in psychological distress can escalate the situation, cause unnecessary trauma, and erode trust between vulnerable individuals and public institutions.

Best practices in public safety and healthcare emphasize de-escalation, compassion, and the involvement of trained mental health professionals. When individuals are met with understanding and appropriate support rather than force, outcomes are safer for everyone involved. Conversely, the use of force against non-criminal individuals experiencing mental health crises raises serious ethical, legal, and human rights concerns.

I respectfully urge your office to prioritize policies that focus on crisis intervention training, partnerships with mental health professionals, and community-based response systems. Protecting the dignity and safety of individuals with mental illnesses strengthens both public trust and community well-being.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I appreciate your leadership and commitment to ensuring fair and humane treatment for all members of our community.

Sincerely,
Debra Torossian, MS, QMHP, CADC