

February 17, 2020

ATTN: Senator Delores Kelley, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Dear Senator Kelley and Finance Committee Members

I'm writing this letter in support of SB 541 *Health - Involuntary Admissions - Procedures*. I testified last year in support of this important legislation. This year with renewed effort and tremendous sponsorship from advocacy organizations, inpatient psychiatrists, and emergency room physicians we are requesting your favorable vote.

The Public Defenders would have you believe that they have not banned psychiatric nurse practitioners from testifying. I have personally been asked to leave the hearing and not offer testimony to the care that I've given a patient. Instead, a psychiatrist unknown to the patient conducted a brief interview and utilized my notes for the administrative law hearing. As a Doctorally prepared psychiatric nurse practitioner, I am fully capable of completing the initial evaluation for an involuntarily admitted patient and offer testimony during administrative law hearings.

Changing this law would allow for an increased number of clinicians to initiate treatment and ensure patient safety. Please vote in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kamala D. Via". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kamala D. Via, DNP, CRNP-PMH