

SB 480

Testimony by Stacy Derrick, Co-Owner of Help in the Home LLC

Position: SUPPORT

I am the Co-Owner of Help in the Home LLC. Our agency provides support to people with severe and persistent mental illness. Services range from coordinating the care outlined by various treatment providers to daily support with med monitoring, meal prep household chores etc. We provide support to people who need treatment in order to live a meaningful life that is filled with purpose and dignity.

The current Involuntary Treatment Law allows these clients to refuse treatment and live a marginal life, often in reprehensible conditions defined by isolation fear and inability to care for basic physical needs. We have seen people with mental illness suffer tremendously as their families stand by helpless waiting until their loved one is dangerous enough to be hospitalized and praying that irreparable health consequences violence and death can be avoided.

I would like to describe a young man who would currently benefit from the passing of this bill. He has walked away from every treatment center his parents have found for him. He refuses to meet with psychiatrist, therapist or participate in treatment. At this time, he is living with his girlfriend, losing weight and increasing in social isolation. We are doing our best to monitor his condition for the development of physical/psychiatric conditions that meet criteria for an emergency petition.

Because the standard for hospitalization is immediate danger, we can merely hope we will be able to intervene BEFORE a fatal tragedy occurs.

Sincerely,

Stacey Derrick
Co-Owner
Help in the Home LLC
Montgomery County