

Jennifer Haines - Former HB 2273

From: Elizabeth Yarnell
To: Jennifer Haines
Date: 2/19/2003 3:45 PM
Subject: Former HB 2273

Hi, Jennifer

Wanted to let you know that I have sent a draft of this bill to LRB.

The PA Mental Health Consumers Association (PMHCA) gave me some feedback which I *incorporated* into the legislation.

They noted that stigma results in discrimination.

Pg 2 Line 6 - (3) This stigma and prejudice *result in discrimination and* reduces patient access to resources and opportunities, *including housing and employment.*

They noted that violence was the only stigma mentioned. I revised Pg 2, line 11 (5) This stigma and prejudice arise from people's *lack of knowledge and understanding of mental illness and results in fear of* individuals with mental illness.

I clarified the use of the word "entity". It is in the definitions, but not used elsewhere in the bill. It would include those agencies, organizations, etc that would develop and implement a grant program. A program would be the actual educational program to educate and raise the awareness of the public.

The most significant revision to the language is that I increased the number of members of the advisory committee from 15 to 20. The reason for this is PMHCA noted that NAMI has an issue with the use of parents of children with mental illness but not including parents and family members of adults with mental illness. This is a critical issue. The parent or adult sibling or adult child of an adult with mental illness going to have a different perspective from a parent of a minor with mental illness.

I felt the best way to address this was to add five more members to the advisory board who are family members of an adult with mental illness. This would give the advisory committee the composition of 5 mental health providers, 5 consumers of MH services, 5 parents of minors receiving MH services and 5 family members of adults receiving MH services.

I added back an appropriation of \$8,575,000 based on the fiscal note from Appropriations last year.

When I get the draft back from LRB, we can make any revisions necessary before introducing it.

If Representative ^{SATHER} ~~Saylor~~ has any questions or concerns about the revisions I made, please let me know.

Thanks
Liz

Jennifer Haines - Re: Former HB 2273

From: Elizabeth Yarnell
To: Jennifer Haines
Date: 2/21/2003 3:38 PM
Subject: Re: Former HB 2273

Hi, Jennifer

Forgot to give you the tobacco information. The Tobacco dollars are designated for physical and medical health issues and needs rather than mental health. While we could argue that mental health is a medical issue, services are operated by the Dept of Public Welfare, not Health. DPW is involved with tobacco dollars only via community based ong term care for seniors, MA for disabled workers and uncompensated care for hospitals serving uninsured poor.

I will certainly be happy to do a co-sponsorship letter for you! If Mr. Sather has any questions, please contact me.

Liz

>>> Jennifer Haines 02/21/03 03:23PM >>>
Hi Liz,

I just was going over the e-mail that you sent me on Wednesday and I just have a couple of questions. I was wondering if you were able to check into using Tobacco money for this bill. I know that Rep. Sather will ask me that on Monday when I show him your e-mail from the other day. Also when you get the blue back from the Reference Bureau would you be able to do a co sponsorship memo for me.

Thanks Jennifer

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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

February 27, 2003

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation –“People Improving Lots of Lives (PILL)” for Pennsylvania’s Health Grant Program. (Previous HB 2273)

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Larry O. Sather

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce legislation establishing a grant program to reduce stigma and prejudice surrounding mental illness.

This bill directs the Department of Public Welfare to provide grants for community-based agencies and businesses to develop programs to educate the public and raise awareness of mental illness and the needs and strengths of individuals with mental illness.

This bill creates an advisory board that will provide the Department with direction on development of the grants. This advisory board is composed of consumers of mental health services, parents of children with mental illness, family members of adults with mental illness and service providers.

Last session, this bill passed the House by unanimous vote. It is important that we continue the effort to support our constituents with mental illness and their families.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Jennifer in my office at 787-3335 or by e-mail at jhaines@pahousegop.com.

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