

SB 22

Stuller

To Senator Chip Shields and members of the Senate HHS Committee Feb. 4, 2013

Re: Possible language amendment in SB 22

Thank you for responding to our e-mail regarding the language in SB 22 which is scheduled for a hearing Monday.

The language we are suggesting for the term ³reasonable privacy² found on page 2, line 8 is merely for clarification. Without such clarification, the directors, managers, and assistant managers of the 60 or so private agencies, which are licensed to provide services to residents with I/DD (Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities) may apply their own definitions. The DHS/SPD for example, was unable to tell us what it meant when we asked Mary Lee Fay, then director of DHS Office of Developmental Disability.

Several community providers are agreed that a definition of ³reasonable privacy² is appropriate and needed in this Bill.

#2ŠInterestingly, the word ³stability² is not mentioned in SB 22, even as a goal in the care of persons with I/DD. We have heard psychiatrists mention stability as a desirable element in the treatment of persons with I/DD, particularly those with severe and profound degrees of handicap, and/or with a dual diagnosis of mental illness in addition to intellectual disability, and concomitant behavior problems.

I am sorry not to be with you today, but my wife, who is in her 70s very recently developed some heart symptoms for which a cardiologist is being consulted, and I am trying very hard to look after her at this time.

Thank you again for your service and understanding.

Sid Stuller