

Testimony submitted by email.

I am in complete support of House Bill 2304. I am a peer support specialist. I became a peer after peers modeled for me that recovery was possible. I wanted to give back. I have gone from being homeless and diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness to being in recovery. A large part of my recovery came from the peer movement. I was helped by both peer support specialists and my family was helped by family peers. Over an eight year span I worked hard to get off of disability with the peer support specialists providing a model and an example for me to follow in. Peers reduce stigma, advocate and most importantly provide that peer relationship that can inspire hope.

House Bill 2304 would provide legislation that would aid my profession grow in the medical field and would allow for further development of my role. Most importantly it would aid the people I serve, the future of the peer role.

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