

Submitter: Shawn Lenderman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB820

I wholeheartedly support this bill. It is long overdue. I am a mental health professional and I have worked in this field since 1992. The lack of adequate care/treatment of people with mental health issues is truly astounding. The fact that this inequity has gone on for decades and has not improved--some might say it has only gotten worse--is heartbreaking. If someone has a broken leg, no matter their circumstances, they can go to a medical facility and get it repaired. The same is not so for someone with a "break" in their mental health. They may be taken to a medical facility, but rarely is anything repaired. With the supports that this bill would require, people with mental health issues may finally get the help they need to get healthy and stay healthy. ER visits and hospital/Juvenile detention stays would surely lessen if their needs are being met in other ways. The struggles of those with mental health issues can be ongoing due to misdiagnoses, wrong and/or no medication, overmedicating, etc. If mental health clients had valid supports along their journey, their recovery would likely be much quicker and long-lasting. The hope these supports could provide to clients and their families is invaluable.

Thank You.