

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 3331

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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Hearing Date: April 28, 2021 8:00 AM

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Marilyn Hartman

Member and Advocate, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Central Texas (advocating for all with serious mental illness)

Austin, TX

I support this bill. Oversight of facilities and their practices is important when vulnerable people such as those with mental illness are involved. Please pass this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Mikolajek, Ms

NAMI Central TX

Austin, TX

As a private citizen and a member of NAMI Central TX, I am writing to ask you to support HB 3331. There should not be patient solicitation. If this occurs there should be increasing criminal penalties.

Eric Kunish, NAMI Central Texas Advocacy Chair

National Alliance on Mental Illness Central Texas Affiliate

Austin, TX

I support this bill. Thank you so much!

Sherri Layton

La Hacienda Treatment Center; Texas Association of Addiction Professionals; myself as Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor

Hunt, TX

I encourage the Committee to support HB 3331. This legislation is needed to update and strengthen current laws that prohibit patient brokering, aka paying for patients, and various schemes that are currently being practiced in Texas where individuals and organizations profit off vulnerable individuals at crisis points in their lives. An entire industry has evolved across the country where patients are referred to essentially the highest bidder, with no regard for the actual clinical need of the person being referred. While this behavior has received national media attention in Florida and California, it is happening in Texas as well. Our existing laws are good, but need to be updated and strengthened to address changes that have happened over the past 28 years, in both technology and ways to profit off insurance coverage for substance use and mental health services, as well as other payment mechanisms for services. Individuals are harmed and our entire healthcare system suffers. HB 3331 will strengthen the existing laws. Please pass it out of committee and to the full House.