

**From:** Barbara McLean <barbaracmclean@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 9:19 AM  
**To:** Office  
**Subject:** Bill 1 - Health Authorities Act

Dear Law Amendment Committee,

My name is Barbara McLean, I am a Social Worker and have worked for Capital Health for 5.5 years. I am a front line mental health worker who supports some of the most vulnerable people in our society. I would have liked to speak at the Law of Amendments today, however I have to work. I will instead send along my comments to you.

I am vehemently against and do not support any legislation that will result in health care workers being forced into a union without having the opportunity to vote. This is in direct violation of the Trade Union Act. All 4 Unions have cooperated and collaborated to create the Bargaining Association proposal, which would fulfill the government's vision of 4 contracts across the Province. This is similar to associations that exist in B.C.

I believe this Bill is not about streamlining healthcare or improving access to needed services. It is clearly and undeniably about diminishing the power of unions and health care workers, and setting the stage for wage restraint and diminished benefits. To silence us and deny us our right to choose our representation is shocking and disgusting, and shows that the government has zero respect health care workers and the work we do. I care about my union, and who represents me. I want to exercise my democratic right to vote to choose my union. Indeed, runoff votes were held in other provinces in similar instances: Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and PEI. These workers were able to exercise their constitutional rights. The McNeil government clearly thinks they are above the constitution and the Trade Unions Act.

This legislation will drive health care workers out of Nova Scotia when we are already facing shortages. I know I will leave if this legislation is passed. The government keeps telling me with their actions (discontinuing the graduate retention tax credit, failing to stimulate economic growth, under-employing young workers, and violating basic democratic rights) that they don't want young workers in the Province. So I will listen and go. I will not live under a dictatorship.

**In conclusion, I strongly urge the McNeil government to withdraw this Bill, and accept the bargaining association proposal. Barring that, they should absolutely allow all health care workers to vote. It is our democratic right.**

Sincerely,

Barbara McLean, BA, BCR, BSW