

To the Law Amendments Committee

My Role

I teach at the Law School, where my subjects include Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal and I also am a lecturer in the Residency Training Program in the Department of Psychiatry, where I teach Legal Issues in Psychiatry. I was a member of the IPTA Legislative Amendments Advisory Group which met in the fall 2020 over an extended period. I have also been a member of many civil society groups that have had an active interest in this subject for decades. The consultations were very well organized by the Health Promotion, Mental Health and Addictions Branch and the process produced a great deal of important feedback. I never heard a word from anyone in Government after that and I was surprised to learn that an amendment to this complex legislation was introduced on March 31 2022. I was even more astonished that the matter is going to Law Amendments in the next few minutes and that the Bill could get to the house later this week.

Please Slow This Process Down

All I can say is that this seems to be moving along with indecent haste, absolutely incommensurate with the history and complexity of legislation in the mental health field and the sincere input of experts and members of the public in the consultation process.

There should be opportunities for further community input certainly at the Law Amendments Committee, but beyond that.

I will do my best to provide additional substantive input this week, although I am also trying to keep up with my day job.

Many thanks

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