

Madam Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. My name is Evan Silverman I am in support of this bill..

I would like to first give a perspective on seventy two hour holds from someone who has been placed under several over the course of my life. I believe that a 72 hour hold can be a very useful tool. If this bill becomes law it will sharpen the tool and give folks better treatment.

It helps screen people to determine who might need only medication adjustment, while others might need more time in the hospital and are placed under certification. It is unlikely that someone will lose their job or miss paying some bills solely because of being in the hospital for three days.

One example of how this bill will help is that it requires an intervening professional to screen the person immediately ~~or within 8 hours after the person's arrival at the facility~~ to determine if the person meets the criteria for an emergency mental health hold. I believe there are many other modifications contained in this bill which will also impact patient care in a positive way

In the fall of 2019 I was placed under a certification. The purpose of commitment is to assure treatment. I was at several hospitals and eventually spent 11 months receiving treatment at Fort Logan. I really got a lot out of the groups at Fort Logan and received high quality care from the psychiatrists. **At Fort Logan I was teamed up** with a very, very good social worker. It was her job to help me with discharge. She decided that my best option was Mental Health Center of Denver. This decision is one which continues to impact me today.

I have been told Fort Logan does a great job when it comes to discharge and if this bill becomes law it will help ensure other inpatient treatment facilities will do the same. One example is on page 39 lines 6-11. *A facility or program that is transferring a respondent to a different treatment facility or to an outpatient provider shall provide all treatment records to the facility or provider accepting the respondent at least twenty-four hours prior to the transfer.*

So where am I today? I have been out of the hospital for over 18 months. One key component has been stable housing. I was discharged from Fort Logan to a ninety day house. I ended up staying there for over six months and then transitioned to a two year house. This string of positive living situations occurred partly because Fort Logan had a policy of not releasing patients to the streets.

Fortunately my certification was terminated last November and I have been volunteering successfully at Project Angel Heart and Jewish Family Service for right around a year. I hope to be on a career search in the next month or so.

I would like to conclude by saying that if this bill passes everybody directly connected to behavioral health will benefit. Thank you!