
Colorado Office of Public Guardianship

Commissioners

Deb Bennett Woods, Chair
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February 14, 2019

The Honorable Representative Marc Snyder
Colorado House of Representatives

Dear Representative Snyder:

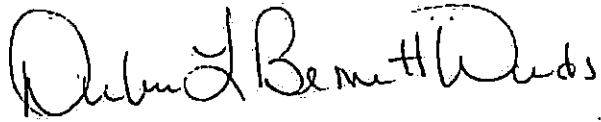
This letter is submitted on behalf of the Office of Public Guardianship Commission (“Commission”). We thank you for sponsoring HB 19-1095, Concerning Funding for Carrying Out Duties Related to the Office of Public Guardianship. Passage of this bill will ensure continuation of the OPG pilot project to assess the need for a statewide program to serve incapacitated and indigent adults who do not have an appropriate family or friends available to act as their guardian.

In deliberating this measure, and pursuant to the Office of Public Guardianship Act, *see* § 13-94-101 through 111, C.R.S. (2017), we ask the Legislature to please be advised that the Commission, in its assigned oversight role over an eventual Director for the Office, is committed to the development and implementation of operating policies and procedures for the Office of Public Guardianship pilot project that are consistent with existing Colorado statute and judicial practice. This view is consistent with the legislation, which seeks to “maintain and not alter or expand judicial authority to determine that any adult is incapacitated.” § 13-94-102(2)(f), C.R.S. (2017). This commitment includes practices that are designed to promote the identification and support of a willing and appropriate personal guardian when possible.

Under the pilot program, the Commission has the authority to hire and supervise the Director for the Office. In that capacity, the Commission believes that such services will be established and delivered with attention to national best practices and accepted professional standards for guardianship. *See generally* § 13-94-105, C.R.S. (2017). To that end, consistent with the legislative purpose of the pilot program, the Commission contemplates a rigorous and inclusive stakeholder process for implementation of the law, which may include but is not limited to, client intake, client rights, education and outreach, modification/termination of

guardianship, and complaints and appeals. Such engagement would contemplate active input by parties who may be affected or who represent people who maybe be affected by the OPG pilot program processes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Bennett Woods". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deb Bennett-Woods
Chair, Commission for the Office of Public Guardianship