

Testimony
House Bill 1117 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
February 14, 2017

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Pamela Sagness, Director of the Behavioral Health Division for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today in support of House Bill 1117, which was introduced at the request of the Department.

The proposed changes would update language to be consistent with the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder, for example "Substance Use Disorder" instead of drug abuse or alcoholism.

In addition, the proposed changes update the "Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse" to the "Behavioral Health Division". A change initiated by the Department May of 2015.

Lastly, the proposed changes utilize person-first language. The bill proposes to change "chronically mentally ill individuals" to "individuals with a serious mental illness".

That concludes my testimony. I would be happy to address any questions.