

SCR-34

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 11:39:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 4/11/2024 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

We are in strong support. I first became aware of this issue from one of the members of my Board of Directors who has had multiple problems over the years dealing with her daughter who has a mental illness. She has had behavioral issues and at times has severely decompensated. On a specific occasion some years ago her doctor thought to check her thyroid function and remarkably found that when her thyroid medication was adjusted her behavior dramatically improved. It turned out that that had a lot to do with the root causes of her issues and that the psychotropic medication she had been prescribed was not only not the solution, but also part of the problem.

For that reason she and I have been on a bit of a mission to let people know and to encourage all prescribing medical professionals to conduct an initial simple blood test for thyroid function to either rule that in or rule that out as a potential cause or contributing factor before prescribing a psychotropic medication. My hope with this Resolution is that we can educate the public and more specifically encourage the medical profession to incorporate thyroid testing into their protocols prior to prescribing psychotropic medications.

We would be extremely grateful if you would support this Concurrent Resolution.

SCR-34

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 8:00:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 4/11/2024 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pauline Arellano	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

DEAR SIRS,

I SUPPORT SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34 REGARDING THYROID TESTING.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO TESTIFY TODAY.

I BELONG TO MANY ORGANIZATIONS: HDRC, I AM A BOARD MEMBER, I AM THE CHAIR OF THE PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS (PAIMI), I AM A PAST MEMBER OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE AT THE HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL, I DO NOT SPEAK FOR ANY OF THESE FINE INSTITUTIONS, MY THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ARE MY OWN.

HYPER AND HYPO THYROIDISM MIMICS EXACTLY THE SYMPTOMS AND BEHAVIORS OF BI POLAR ILLNESS.

GOOD NEWS IS IT HAS BEEN 16 YEARS SINCE OUR LAST PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALIZATION. PRIOR TO THIS TIME IT HAD BEEN ONCE A YEAR SOMETIMES TWICE.

WE HAD HER ADMITTED TO KAHI FOR VIOLENT BEHAVIOR. THEY ISOLATED HER AND PUT HER IN 4 POINT RESTRAINTS FEW THINGS ARE MORE HORRIBLE THAN TO SEE YOUR LOVED ONE RESTRAINED LIKE A WILD ANIMAL. THEY COULDN'T BRING HER DOWN GAVE HER ENOUGH MEDS TO PUT A HORSE TO SLEEP, FINALLY ZOMBIE.

6 MONTHS LATER CASTLE, NEW DR. NEW MEDS LITHIUM/PROZAC 8 DAYS LATER SHE'S A VEGETABLE, NO MOVEMENT AT ALL, FOR 8 MONTHS!

DR. DROPPED US AS HIS PATIENT NO PSYCHIATRIST ON THIS ISLAND WOULD TAKE US AS A PATIENT. WE ENDED UP IN THE STATE SYSTEM, WAHIAWA CLINIC. DR. DOUGLAS COOPER WALKED UP TO HER TOUCHED HER FACE AND HAIR AND SAID I DON'T AGREE WITH HER DIAGNOSIS SHE HAS A THYROID CONDITION. MONTHS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND WEANING HER OFF OF LITHIUM WHICH WHILE GOOD FOR SOME PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS IS THE WORST MEDICINE FOR THYROID CONDITION. WITH THE NEW DIAGNOSIS AND CHANGE OF MEDS WE

WERE ABLE TO GET HER OUT OF THIS VEGETATIVE STATE SHE CAN NOW WALK, TALK, FEED, AND DRESS HERSELF.

RECENTLY ODD BEHAVIOR THYROID SPIKED, MEDICINE ADJUSTED 10 HOURS LATER

NORMAL.

I AM ASKING THE LEGISLATURE TO APPROVE SCR 34 REGARDING THYROID TESTING BEFORE PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICINES ARE ADMINISTERED. CLINICAL LABS TESTING \$58.00, LESS THAN ONE HOUR AFTER A BLOOD DRAW RESULTS WILL BE ABLE TO CONFIRM IF THERE IS A THYROID ISSUE.

DOCTORS ONCE TOOK AN OATH "FIRST DO NO HARM." HORRENDOUS HARM CAN BE DONE WITH A MISDIAGNOSIS.

YOU HAVE THIS POWER, PLEASE DON'T LET THIS EVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

THANK YOU, I AM A MAMMA ON A MISSION PAULINE ARELLANO

SCR-34

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 11:43:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 4/11/2024 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Regets	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, my name is Kiana Regets and I support this bill. As someone who struggled with mental health issues during her teen years and early twenties I believe testing for thyroid functions and levels is extremely important. During those years with mental health concerns my thyroids were never tested and during my early twenties I was diagnosed with thyroid cancer, papillary carcinoma specifically and hypothyroidism. Hypothyroidism can have comorbidity with depression and can affect mood which include anxiety or depression. I think that if I had been checked for thyroid issues earlier a lot of stress could have been avoided and preventative care could have been put in place. I strongly believe that having individuals check their thyroid levels before starting medications for mental health concerns can be extremely beneficial. For example: Studies show that if you have both hypothyroidism and depression, thyroid-replacement medications may work better than antidepressants.

SCR-34

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 9:10:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 4/11/2024 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion Poirier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Members of the Legislatiure,

Position: SUPPORT

My name is Marion Poirier, and I support SCR 34. I am a registered nurse whose professional career has been focused on non-profit administration. Prior to retirement, I was an executive director of NAMI Hawaii, hence my interest in this measure. Currently I serve on the Board of the Hawaii Dusabiity Rights Center. This is my personal testimony.

There have been instances reported of thyroid disorders mimicking some mental health disorders like depression. i believe that studying this matter is important to the health and well being of our citizens.

Anything item that would improve knowledge would be to add nursing to the study. Ou APRN's prescribe medications, and nurses spend quality time with patients that assists with diagnoses.

Thank you very much.

SCR-34

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 11:32:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 4/11/2024 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SCR34 to create these different agencies to test thyroids first before giving medications which ruins a person's other organs. But of course, this probably would be a waste of time and resources, if they do not have strong advocates with lived experiences that have gone through decades of psychiatric medications, which ruined vital organs so that they can use us as experiments for the health field. You cannot separate the head from the body, it's whole health! Brain chemicals are affected by everything a person eats, drinks, inhales, or absorbs, as well as your glands throughout your body from anxiety or other strong emotions. Thus, Chinese therapy, over 5000 years old and other indigenous remedies are better, they cure the organs with herbal supplements, not the symptoms! A person has to believe, so it's their mindset.

Alternative health therapies should be included in medical insurances and the return of the family practitioner who knew more about a person and their families. Specialized medicine built silo thinking and has been just a waste of federal, state, and local resources. "Professionals" profit off of the uneducated, and don't care about the community and the people they serve. Medical doctors just want to get paid by insurances, so assign a diagnosis, even though they don't know what is "wrong" with a person. So they can be paid by insurances and live a healthy lifestyle stealing from the poor and those in need! One of the biggest scams of our history, like changing Matriarch societies to Patriarch by the European male, who didn't want to come from the same lady in Africa, rather from the apes!

Time to rethink our values and deal with PEOPLE, not placing a money value on a professionals' time of 2 - 15 minutes (if a patient is lucky)! Time to realize, pros know nothing about a patient unless they are told, then you judge their lifestyle and their resources, in what you believe is normal! No one is normal, after the pandemic! Our ages, sexual orientation, cultures and races vary and should not be judged by medical models created for one sex and their race! Statistics do not paint accurate pictures of a human being! Only the person knows what happened to them! They just need to be reminded to drink water, exercise and breathe, but of course pros would only make money from their outrageous office visit from insurances, and still demand a copay from the individual who is just struggling to survive.

SCR-34

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 12:53:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 4/11/2024 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Pat Waterhouse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti and Members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I strongly support this resolution. A friend, her child and family suffered many years because her daughter was diagnosed as having bipolar. However, one psychiatrist that saw her daughter thought she had a thyroid problem. After one simple blood test it was confirmed. Her daughter was on psychotropic drugs for years to no avail and caused so much heartache and turmoil in the family's life. Now everyone knows why.

Thank you for considering this important resolution.

Mary Pat Waterhouse

SCR-34

Submitted on: 4/11/2024 9:00:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 4/11/2024 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Strong Support of this important resolution. It is important that best practices are followed and proper medical testing is done in conjunction with the prescribing of psychotropic medications. Thyroid testing is very important before prescribing psychotropic medications and periodically after.

There are many tests that can and should be done to discern whether or what type of behavioral health treatment is necessary. This is also important, maybe even more so, when individuals are being subjected to forced treatment with psychotropic medications.