



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Fwd: Support for Bill 112-36

1 message

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
To: Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 30, 2021 at 4:57 PM

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Office Location: Ada Plaza Center, Suite 207, [173 Aspinall Avenue](#), Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Address: Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: speaker@guamlegislature.orgwebsite: www.senatorterlaje.com

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From: **Wayne Butler** [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 8:38 PM
Subject: Support for Bill 112-36
To: <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
Cc: <senatorletot@gmail.com>, <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, <office@senatorperez.org>, <senatorcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, <senatorvanthoniyada@gmail.com>, <office@senatorjoannebrown.com>, <officeofsenatormoylan@guamlegislature.org>

Hafa Adai Honorable Senator Terlaje and colleagues:

I am writing today in support of Bill 112-36. I've been listening to both sides of this issue with great interest. The main argument by the doctors who oppose this bill, as I understand it, appears to be that there is a lack of specialized medical care on Guam. As a result, these doctors are providing services outside of the scope of practice that they have been trained in, in order to provide services to patients that would otherwise not have access to service at all. They argue that any injuries or deaths that occur due to services they provide beyond their training are simply the cost of not having appropriate specialists on island and that they should not be held accountable when their lack of expertise results in serious injury or death. That this is simply the nature of the health care system on Guam.

Rather than addressing the underlying issue of lack of appropriate specialists on Guam, their solution is to keep things as they are; continue to allow doctors without the appropriate training to provide life and death services to people in need. Some deaths and permanent injuries are simply the price the community pays. And, it's simply too

bad that the majority of people harmed by these conditions are unable to receive any compensation for their losses due to the high costs of arbitration.

It's not clear to me all of the factors that prevent appropriate specialists from locating to Guam, but I can't help wondering if one of the factors is that doctors providing services beyond their scope of training; taking potential patients away from specialists, is one of the factors keeping specialists from locating here.

Bill 112-36 seems like a reasonable compromise between an unaffordable mandatory mediation process preventing the majority of legitimate claims to be filed and a free for all that could result in some frivolous claims. A process presided over by a magistrate judge would be a good mechanism for an impartial assessment of a complaint against a doctor. It would allow people with legitimate claims access to remedies that are currently only available to the financially well off, protects doctors and patients, is impartial, cost effective for the community as a whole, and would protect against frivolous claims. It's sensible and should be adopted.

Thank you for your kind attention and have a peaceful day,

Wayne Butler, MFT