

August 18, 2021

Donna Moschetti, Chair
Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee

Dear Ms. Moschetti and Measure B Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of the Crisis Respite Facility and Services on the Coast located in or near the City of Fort Bragg.

For context, I grew up here in Fort Bragg and moved home after college to raise a family of my own. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and I have been working in the field of mental health since for over 10 years. In addition to what I have learned as a professional in the field, I also have personal experience with our local mental health system as a client.

What I have learned in my professional and personal life is that when people are in psychiatric crisis, they are exquisitely vulnerable. Caring for people who are experiencing a psychiatric crisis as we have, in a bed in an emergency room behind a simple curtain is not healing for them, nor is it safe for the emergency room staff. Having a separate unit for respite of crisis clients will ensure their safety and the capacity of emergency room staff to do their jobs effectively.

I lobbied all my friends and family when Measure B was on the ballot and since then, I have remained hopeful as to how it will support Mendocino County as a whole but also our coastal community. Please consider pursuing the Crisis Respite Facility and Services on the Coast located in or near the City of Fort Bragg.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with further questions. I am so grateful for all you are doing for Mendocino County.

Sincerely,
Jessica Ehlers, LCSW

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