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Brewer
LD 831

Testimony of Jason Goodrich

Regarding LD 831 – An Act Regarding Abandoned Vehicles Due to Involuntary
Psychiatric Hospitalization

Members of the Health and Human Committee:

My name is Jason Goodrich, and I am corresponding today to express my strong support for LD 831. I come to you as someone who has worked with individuals experiencing crisis, homelessness, and behavioral health concerns, and I ask you to consider a simple truth: when any of us are in trouble, the thing we most often ask for is "just a little more time."

Think about the last time you faced hardship. Maybe you lost a job, had a health scare, or found yourself overwhelmed by life's circumstances. When that moment came, if you needed help, chances are you asked for just a little more time to figure things out—time to pay that bill, to decide, to get back on your feet.

Now imagine you are in crisis—not just struggling, but in such distress that the state deems it necessary to hospitalize you involuntarily – to reduce your rights as a citizen. Your world is already spinning. And while you are locked away, without any ability to intervene, the clock is ticking on your only means of transportation—your car, parked somewhere, waiting to be towed and claimed as abandoned.

For many, a vehicle is more than just a car. It's independence. It's stability. Sometimes it's even housing! It's the last thing we have left after losing jobs, homes, or relationships. It represents the hope that, when we walk out of the hospital doors, we have something left to rebuild with.

LD 831 recognizes this reality. It gives people that extra time—120 days—before their vehicle is considered abandoned. That may not seem like much, but when someone is returning from hospitalization, those extra days can be the difference between recovery and relapse, between work and unemployment, between stability and homelessness.

This bill isn't about handouts—it's about fairness and dignity. It's about recognizing that when people are at their lowest, we don't need to take away one more thing. We need to give them what all of us, at some point, have needed: just a little more time.

I urge you to support LD 831 and help ensure that behavioral health crisis do not become an irreversible downward spiral for any of us.

Thank you.
Jason Goodrich