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Subject: LD496 Testimony

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My name is Peggy O' Ben, and I'm testifying in support of the LD496 bill. With all due respect to the joint standing committee. I have worked voluntary, with the unhoused for 6 years. Three years ago I contacted Graham's mother, because I had an unhoused man living in a tent by the water, and thought just maybe it could be. It was the middle of winter, and I had to climb down over a steep snowbank to get to his tent. I would bring him supplies, but he would never come out. It was not Graham, unfortunately. I spoke with Tammy and Jon for some time. I truly feel if a search for Graham had started immediately by authorities, Graham would have been found. I feel Graham was at a facility, and when he bolted, his condition, and needs should have been a top reason in starting a search immediately, and of utmost importance. The alert for finding him and the seriousness took too long to really get started, and taken with the urgency it needed. Please pass this bill. No family, or children, whether adult or not should have to endure the pain of not knowing. Graham's circumstances are heartbreaking and I believe could have been prevented. Thank you for your time. Silver Alerts need better response. Peggy O'Ben