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To the HHS committee,
Thankyou for considering LD 1090.

I implore you, as a family member whose loved one has been greatly helped by the PTP program, to pass this bill. The PTP Program is of great benefit to those who need supportive treatment beyond hospitalization.. Family members have heard from hospitals and providers that one obstacle that prevents them from enrolling their patients in the PTP Program is the cost of court fees to do so.

This bill would eliminate that obstacle.

Too many of our loved ones are incarcerated in our jails and in prison, when they need to be in humane medical treatment instead. Many who could be transferred to hospitals are incarcerated for long stays due to the shortage of hospital beds. We need an option for treatment in the community for those who are unable to accept treatment because they lack the capacity to recognize that they are ill. Passing this bill enable people to receive treatment in the community and stop the revolving doors in and out of hospitals and jails.

People with serious brain illnesses deserve treatment, not jail. They deserve treatment before their illness compels them to break the law, or hurt themselves or others. We all know that not every person with a debilitating brain disorder falls into this category. But we cannot deny that for those who do, tragedies could have been prevented if treatment had been made available. This bill would allow for a full two years of implementation, enough time for providers to access the needed funds to enroll more clients in the PTP program and enough time for the committee to see the positive results which will undoubtedly be evident.

Please approve the passage of LD 1090.