

House Human Services Committee
Senate Bill 2345 – March 8, 2023
Testimony of Rachel Sinness, P&A Legal Director

P&A protects the human, civil and legal rights of people with disabilities. The agency's programs and services seek to make positive changes for people with disabilities where we live, learn, work and play.

P&A provides testimony in support of SB 2345 relating to the task force on guardianship monitoring to promote the accountability of all guardians. We understand the necessity of an improved system for people in need of guardianships, and we are aware of issues related to the shortage of qualified guardians for individuals with disabilities. Many of the issues we have encountered involve a guardian not acting in accordance with the least restrictive form of intervention standard. We have also seen guardians and caregivers engage in financial exploitation of persons subject to guardianship. P&A has been involved in several transfers of guardianship from one guardian to another, in cases where the existing guardian inappropriately exercises guardianship authority.

Section 1 of SB 2345 provides that the task force on guardianship monitoring must include representatives from the guardianship monitoring program and protection and advocacy project and individuals representing guardianship service providers, family guardians, district court judges, and attorneys. We're in favor of ensuring appropriate and responsive care of individuals with disabilities and request a DO PASS recommendation for this bill.