

Senate Human Services Committee
Senate Bill 2345 – January 30, 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 neutral testimony regarding 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 vulnerable individuals. 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.

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. While we're in favor of ensuring appropriate and responsive care of vulnerable individuals, P&A is subject to federal rules and regulations prohibiting it from providing a duplication of services. P&A wants to ensure that the efforts proposed in SB 2345 are not duplicative of those efforts already being made by the Guardianship Monitoring Program, P&A, and other providers such as Vulnerable Adult Protective Services.