

**Senate Human Services Committee**  
**HCR 3021**  
**Denise Harvey, P&A Director of Program Services**

Chair Lee and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Denise Harvey, Director of Program Services for Protection & Advocacy (P&A). 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.

Protection & Advocacy appreciates the proposed resolution to consider a study related to the services provided in the state for the care and treatment of individuals with brain injury. P&A also appreciates the study of services provided in other states and the impact of the implementation of services.

There continue to be needs and gaps in services for individuals with brain injury in the state. There are gaps in services needed to support the rights of individuals to live in the most integrated settings in the community. In addition, there are gaps in the continuum of care for these individual, to include a lack of staffing to meet support needs, a lack of shorter and longer-term residential options. There is a need for peer support. Advocacy and provider organizations are understaffed and this issue could also be researched within the study and solutions could be proposed.

Individuals with significant brain injuries are among the most vulnerable individuals P&A serves. These persons are at risk for abuse, neglect, and exploitation. We see individuals that are sent to jails and placed in institutional settings, sometimes for years, due to a lack of specialized services in the community to meet their needs.

I am glad to answer any question.

Denise Harvey, Director of Program Services  
Protection & Advocacy