

Name

Andrew Konoff

Email address

andrew.konoff@gmail.com

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The Standing Committee on Justice Policy is reviewing Bill 161 which amends the Legal Aid Services Act.

I demand that the ability of Ontario's community legal clinics to serve marginalized people in our community be preserved. This requires the following changes to be made to the draft bill:

1. Reinstate 'access to justice' for low-income and disadvantaged communities to the Purpose of the legislation.
2. Community legal clinics must be recognized as the foundation for the provision of clinic law services.
3. Reinstate obligations to provide legal aid services across Ontario.
4. Define community legal clinics as:

'community legal clinic' means a community legal organization structured as an independent corporation without share capital:

- (a) whose board of directors are members of the community or communities served, or who have a substantial association or interest in the community or communities served
- (b) that provides legal aid services for the community it serves on a basis other than fee for service; and,
- (c) that determines the legal needs of the individuals and communities served by the community legal clinic.

This is important to me and my community.

Sincerely,
Andrew Konoff

1637 Dupont St
Toronto, ON