

Dangwal, Shriya

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: June 11, 2020 8:11 PM
To: Standing Committee on Justice Policy
Cc: Ellis, Victoria
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 18246

Submitted on Thu, 06/11/2020 - 20:06

Application ID: 18246

Submitted values are:

Bill or item of business: **Bill 161, Smarter and Stronger Justice Act, 2020**

Choose a topic

Do you know the bill title or business (e.g., pre-budget consultations) you'd like to speak or submit material about?

Yes

Choose an application

Which application would you like to submit?

Submit material only

Which deadline would you like to submit your written material for?

[Written Submissions \(Deadline: Friday, June 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.\)](#)

Add your information

Are you submitting material as an individual or on behalf of an organization?

I am submitting material as an individual

Name

Ms. Amanda Arella

Contact phone number

[514-318-1958](#)

Email address

amanda.arella@gmail.com

Paste submission

Dear Mr. Barber,

The legal clinic system in Ontario is important to me and to my community. I am an articling candidate who

has just finished their articles and will soon be called to the Ontario Bar. I have volunteered at legal clinics throughout my legal education, including as duty counsel with Pro Bono Ontario during my articles. These experiences have taught me the critical importance of legal clinics and legal aid in ensuring access to justice for marginalized communities. Please listen to the clinics who are calling on the Standing Committee on Justice Policy to protect this system by improving the text of Bill 161.

Bill 161 must be changed so that the Legal Aid Services Act maintains its identification of legal clinics as the foundation for the provision of law services. Legal clinics must have the same Ontario-wide accessibility and clear definition and purpose that they do today. Legal clinics must be governed by the communities they serve and must not be impeded in providing access to justice for low-income and marginalized people.

Sincerely,
Amanda Arella