

Dangwal, Shriya

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: June 11, 2020 9:40 PM
To: Standing Committee on Justice Policy
Cc: Ellis, Victoria
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 18276

Submitted on Thu, 06/11/2020 - 21:36

Application ID: 18276

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

Dorothy Tang

Email address

dorothy.tang@mail.utoronto.ca

Paste submission

Dear Mr. Barber,

I am writing to you in regards to an issue that is important to me and my community: the legal clinic system in Ontario. Please be advised by the Standing Committee on Justice Policy to protect this system by improving the text of Bill 161.

Bill 161 concerns me because it will have a major impact on the province's legal aid system in that it will hinder the ability of community legal clinics to respond to the needs of those they service. Further cuts to legal aid would impede our most vulnerable communities, low-income and marginalized people, from accessing justice when they need it the most. Moreover, further cuts would compromise the quality of representation that may be provided to these communities. I believe that to prioritize cost-effectiveness over access to justice is extremely problematic and should be thoroughly reconsidered.

Bill 161 must be changed so that the Legal Aid Services Act maintains its identification of legal clinics as a foundation for the provision clinic law services. Moreover, 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. Again, please listen to the clinics who are calling for the protection of this system by improving the text of Bill 161.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Tang