

Dangwal, Shriya

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: June 12, 2020 2:10 PM
To: Standing Committee on Justice Policy
Cc: Ellis, Victoria
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 18531

Submitted on Fri, 06/12/2020 - 13:58

Application ID: 18531

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

Rachel McPherson-Duncan

Contact phone number

[4167385497](#)

Paste submission

MPP Roman Baber, Chair

Standing Committee on Justice Policy

Mr. Barber,

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

It is imperative to the principles of justice 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:

- Reinstate "access to justice" for low-income and disadvantaged communities to the Purpose of the legislation.
- Community legal clinics must be recognized as the foundation for the provision of clinic law services.—
- Reinstate obligations to provide legal aid services across Ontario:
- 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.

These changes are needed and important to the collective pursuit of justice in our society and are vital to the health of our communities.

Sincerely,

R. McPherson-Duncan, M.E.S., J.D.