

## **SB 5665: Making State Hospitals Available for Short-Term Detention and Involuntary Commitment**

**WDA and WACDL oppose making state hospitals available for short-term detention and involuntary commitment. State hospitals are at capacity, have been unable to admit non-forensic patients (including those with development disabilities) in a timely manner for years and are not the remedy for this ongoing problem.**

**Our behavioral health system continues to be in crisis.** This proposal is not the answer to the ongoing crisis. It just makes more hoops for Designated Crisis Responders to jump through for the same result. This bill fails establish regional treatment facilities with higher staff to patient ratios for the acute patients who have a history of violence. Unfortunately passing patients to DSHS facilities does not address the fact that there is already a substantial waitlist for admission.

**Creating a state system of community housing will reduce the number of individuals unable to leave the hospital and will make more beds available.** In local communities and at the State hospital people are unable to establish safe and affordable housing for discharge. This means that many individuals are unable to be discharged.

**WDA and WACDL recognize that it does not solve the immediate problem.** More must be done, but this proposal is not the answer.

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