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Subject: Virginia State Crime Commission Shared Committee Rm Pocahontas Building - House Delegates Herring, McQuinn, Krizek, Mullin, Adams, Campbell, Senators Edwards, Lucas Surovel

Date: Mon, Nov 15, 2021 7:32 pm

To the Virginia State Crime Commission

My name is Matthew Skarlatos and I'm a resident of Reston Virginia

I'm here today to speak on behalf of fellow victims and their family members related to a recent study that was prepared by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission on guardianship reform entitled – Improving Virginia's Adult Guardian and Conservator System.

My sister and I participated and were interviewed by the JLARC panel earlier this year that prepared this study in the malfeasance and fraud of the 19th circuit court in our case that ultimately led to our father Paul Skarlatos untimely death, the circumstances of which are still unresolved. Our father's story as this panel knows is a thoroughly documented case that sought formal acknowledgment from both the Commonwealth's attorney, OSIG, State police, State AG and Governor for redress all of which were denied.

We along with other victims families still have no clear indications after this report was furnished of how the data was collected, assessed and the criteria used with confirmation of the total number of individual cases extrapolated as a subset to all cases that led to abuse, neglect and premature deaths over a period of 10 years or longer. The study cites 12,000 confirmed wards under probate guardianship in the Commonwealth of Virginia, yet discloses no specific details in profiling those ward(s) cases that specifically resulted in neglect, abuse and death with relevant statistical data and what the steps towards remediation ought to be including civil and criminal penalties when severe abuse, neglect and death are identified.

In all candor this report is completely ineffective in approach, scope and methodology and will require Delegates to thoughtfully reflect and interpret on their own on behalf of their constituents who have lost loved ones due to the malfeasance and fraud of both the courts and the State agencies entrusted to protect the ward what is missing from this study. We are puzzled that the summary, and report is labeled as a Draft with no guidance in either the summary or appendices coming largely from DARS APS Annual report with no corresponding outside peer reviewed sources for meaningful analysis to this report? Or how this Draft will change over time, or if it will change at all?

The House of Delegates and Senate must make efforts to ensure that transparency exists at every level of our courts to the very lucrative enterprise of probate guardianship that is a known quantity, and the elements of racketeering that currently exists that has no boundaries not only in the Commonwealth of Virginia but across the Nation. Furthermore, In light of what has taken place with the onset of the pandemic and the number of deaths in nursing homes attributable over the last 2 years alone representing more than a 1/3 of all COVID related fatalities that in many instances are in question... Validating the accuracy in the circumstances of death only heightens this sense of urgency. Transparency and the level and quality of the data provided is without question paramount in making the most informed decisions possible given the sources of the problems in our courts within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

We must develop meaningful criteria within the Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Service and Adult Protective Services in Virginia where personnel are willing, able and most importantly encouraged through proper training to be given the mechanisms to report abuse and neglect directly to the court especially through whistleblower protections afforded to them towards accountability when guardians are knowingly committing fraud in concert with others that damages not only their professional reputations and credibility but more importantly the system of justice as a whole.

I thank the Virginia State Crime Commission and the panel today for it's time.