

29 August 2021

Clerk of the Court  
500 South Duval Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1927

Dear Sirs:

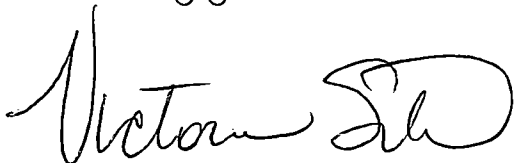
I am a recent citizen of Florida, having moved here permanently in 2019. I love my new home and take great interest in keeping it great, while improving it where we may.

It was brought to my attention recently that an amendment has been proposed to the Baker Act that would allow "virtual" hearings for involuntary commitment to a psychiatric institution. History has shown us that involuntary psychiatric commitments have ALWAYS been a tool to strip civil rights from a country's citizens. In fact, these tools are currently used in Communist China and in the USSR to silence dissenters.

While silencing dissenters may not be the primary intention of the Baker Act, I assert that the potential danger to our citizen's civil liberties, especially its elderly, not to mention the substantial likelihood of its abuse for profit by unscrupulous practitioners and institutions demand that curbs be placed on the use of the Baker Act.

In summary, I strenuously object to the use of virtual technology to involuntarily commit an individual to psychiatric treatment and ask that this amendment be rejected. Please take this into consideration.

Cordially yours,



Victoria Silver  
100 Pierce Street #304  
Clearwater, FL 33756

Received, Clerk, Supreme Court

SEP - 1 2021

**LARRY SILVER**

100 Pierce St. #304  
Clearwater, FL 33756  
Email: lpsilver@comcast.net

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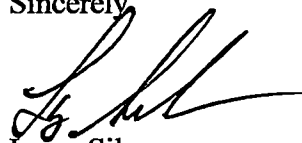
Dear Sirs,

As a Florida resident I recently became aware that, for the second time, an unnecessary and harmful amendment to the Baker Act is being proposed. In the recent past when Courts across the state were ruling that remote/virtual Baker Act hearings could be held, the Florida Supreme Court stepped in and made it clear that **this was a violation of a rights and removed the lower court rulings**. Now, once again, there is a push to remove this fundamental due process right.

Given the acknowledged and widespread misuse of the Baker Act, which I have seen for myself in numerous cases, I am very concerned that the waiving of this fundamental due process right would lead to greater abuse of involuntary examination and commitment (Baker Act) in Florida.

As a citizen of Florida, I am against holding Baker Act hearings remotely/virtually and I strongly believe that a person should have the right to be present in any proceeding which threatens to take away their liberty. Please reaffirm your earlier decision that such an action is a violation of rights.

Sincerely,



Larry Silver

Received, Clerk, Supreme Court

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