



Mr. Chair-

My name is Sally Mixon. I am the founder of a mental health program called Abijah's on the Backside, and I am asking on behalf of Hometown Hero Outdoors to consider bill 4377.

Why is this bill so important? If SF4377 passed, this would allow Hometown Hero Outdoors to strengthen their team in becoming ASSIST trained (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) which would extend out to hundreds of first responders. This bill would also allow for Hometown Hero Outdoors to offer further mental health support through Abijah's when men and women in uniform require more in-depth care.

Why do Abijah's and Hometown Hero Outdoors work well together?

-At Abijah's, insurance is not taken and thus no diagnosis is required to receive help. This removes the barrier many of our first responders have in reaching out for support.

-Abijah's clinicians are master level, licensed (or working towards licensure) mental health professionals who specialize in this very unique therapeutic approach.

-Because of this unique 'outdoor' therapeutic approach with horses, Abijah's is a perfect mental health program to come alongside the mission and vision of Hometown Hero Outdoors to serve those when a higher level of care is needed.

Thank you for your consideration

Sally Mixon, MA, Founder and CEO