



Mental Health & Addictions
Specialty Hospital and Outpatient Practice

MANATEE
GLENS

News Release

Manatee Glens

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MANATEE GLENS URGES ‘NO’ VOTE ON SENATE BILL 1726

(Bradenton, FL)... Manatee Glens is urging the Florida Senate Appropriations Committee to vote ‘no’ on Senate Bill 1726 and instead support a compromise bill offered by the Florida Council for Community Mental Health. The committee is slated to vote Thursday, April 10, 2014. SB 1726 destroys the Baker Act infrastructure by eliminating its ability to be available in times of crisis. In Manatee County, it would result in the closure of most beds in the Manatee Glens Crisis Center for adult and child involuntary Baker Act commitments.

“The impact on our law enforcement and hospital emergency rooms would be catastrophic,” stated Manatee Glens President/CEO Mary Ruiz. “We greatly appreciate that Senator Nancy Detert voted against this bill when it came before her Department of Children and Families Committee, and now we are urging the Appropriations Committee to vote against it as well.”

Just like the fire department, the current payment structure maintains the staffing and operations of Crisis Stabilization Units to take all emergencies at any hour. When changing to per diem payment methodology as called for in this bill, Florida loses its guarantee for crisis services when the money to “pay by the day” runs out.

“Manatee County Sheriff Brad Steube strongly opposes this bill as well. He and others in law enforcement see the devastating effects this bill could cause,” added Ruiz.

SB 1726 will adversely affect individuals with severe mental illnesses, families, communities, law enforcement and courts. “Families should be concerned whether their loved ones will receive emergency care under the Baker Act when their illnesses flair up Tax payers should be concerned that SB 1726 will increase costs and decrease numbers served.” said Ruiz.

*Note to reporters & editors: To interview Mary Ruiz, contact: Sondra.guffey@manateeglens.org
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Manatee Glens is the specialty hospital and outpatient practice in Bradenton
treating mental health and addictions in youth, adults and seniors.
Your Community Behavioral Health Hospital

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