

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO BILL 43-23, CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM - ESTABLISHED**  
**Hearing date: January 16, 2024**

I am opposed to Bill 43-23 and in favor of supporting and expanding the MCOT system.

My son is a well adjusted cheerful adult with a cognitive disability. He has a limited ability to understand a complex situation, and very limited ability to express himself, especially under pressure.

When we were traveling he became nervous with a TSA officer who became impatient and authoritative at his slow response and nervousness. In his confusion he began to mirror her aggressive attitude. She called someone over whose approach was nonconfrontational, who noticed my son's sports T-shirt, commented about sports and immediately dispelled the tension.

This kind of non threatening de-escalation, such as is provided by the MCOT mobile units, seems critical to many interactions with cognitively disabled and those with mental health conditions or in crisis. It may also be a way to spare some valuable police time and expense.

Julie Wiatt

Member of Posna (Parents of Special Needs Adults)

Takoma Park