

Testimony of Ann Edwards
Judiciary Committee
H. B. 5675
1021 Asylum Ave., Apt 201
Hartford, CT, 06105

Dear Judiciary Committee,

Recently, my husband and I were both disciplined. I was released, but he was not until sometime after. My therapist was hassling me at the time. I was thinking about separating. She is no longer is my therapist. I was late for a therapy appointment and my ribs were hurting and she forced me to go to a hospital. I was released. The next day she came by the house and I had to open the door. She forced me to go back again. I believed that I was going for medical purposes, but when I got there, it was for psychiatric reasons.

There was a 15 day PEC ordered by a doctor. I felt harassed and that this was unfair. I asked to see a social worker who talked with me. I said that I wasn't violent, nor was I in a situation where I could become violent. I wasn't a danger to myself. I wasn't suicidal. As a matter of fact, I was pretty happy and I wanted to go home. I couldn't imagine waiting 30 days as the new law might want us to wait. It strips us of our rights. I had too many things to do, working on making up with my husband and getting my bills paid.

30 days is like a foreign country would do. It would make a lot of competent people like myself spend a lot more unnecessary time in an institution. Please don't allow this bill to take affect. Keep it at 15 days. We don't need to go back to the days when big asylums took away the rights of people with psychiatric disabilities. We have come too far. This is defiantly a regressive act, not progressive in helping people with psychiatric disabilities to have rights. Plus, it would overcrowd the hospitals. My husband and I are back together and we're happy.

Ann Edwards