

Harriett J. Werner  
64 West High St., Apt. # 1  
East Hampton, CT 06424  
Judiciary Committee  
Extending P.E.C.

**Senator MacDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee:**

My name is Harriett Werner and I am a registered voter in East Hampton. I am here to testify on HB 5675, an act concerning Physician's Emergency Certificate. People who are in crisis are presently P.E.C'd for 15 days. Having the fifteen day hospital stay is long enough for a psychiatrist to determine if a patient should be discharged or stay for a longer time. Most patients are discharged in less then fifteen days anyway.

Secondly, to have the time longer is very disruptive to the individual's life. Individual life's are disrupted greatly when in the hospital. Having to put one's life on hold for 30 days is to long. A person should not be P.E.C.'d for more than 15 days without due process of the court system. Even a person who has been charged with a criminal offense is due swift process of justice. A person with a psychiatric disability should have the same rights and responsibility as someone who has been arrested.

Each case should be judged on an individual basis and not make a blanket statement for all persons with a psychiatric disability. Please do not infringe on our civil liberties. Most people do better with shorter hospital stays and recover much better when they are in their own environment with community supports of family and friends. Besides being better for the individual it is also more cost effective to keep the person in a community setting.

I urge the judiciary committee not to extend the Physician's Emergency Certificate. Please let us continue to live life with respect and dignity.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriett J. Werner