

CONNECTICUT LEGAL RIGHTS PROJECT

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**Testimony of Susan Aranoff, J.D. Staff Attorney
Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Inc.
Before the Judiciary Committee
February 5, 2007**

Good afternoon, Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Susan Aranoff, Staff Attorney at Connecticut Legal Rights Project and I am here today to speak on **H.B. 6987 AN ACT**

CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF INMATES WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Inc. is a non-profit legal services agency that provides individual and systemic legal services to indigent adults who have, or are perceived as having, psychiatric disabilities and who receive, or are eligible to receive, services from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Connecticut Legal Rights Project maintains offices at all DMHAS operated in-patient and out-patient facilities in the state. Our offices are staffed by attorneys and advocates. I provide legal services to individual clients and I supervise four paralegal advocates. My testimony today is informed by my expertise in the area of patients' rights, in general, and my direct experiences in Connecticut.

Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Inc. **SUPPORTS 6987 AN ACT**
CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF INMATES WITH MENTAL ILLNESS