

THE HONORABLE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Raised Bill 1068

Wednesday, February 14th, 2007

Testimony of Mr. Benjamin Nash, U.S., Army Veteran
Whiting Forensic Division of CVH
70 O'Brien Drive
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Honorable Members of the Committee: My name is Benjamin Nash. I am an individual with psychiatric disabilities and a Proud Veteran of the United States Armed Forces living at Whiting Forensic Div., of CVH. I have been in maximum security for the past twenty two years. Before having been committed to the jurisdiction of the PSRB, I dutifully served our country by serving in then West Germany facing the Soviet Army on the border with East Germany. Yes, I was on the First line protecting Democracy, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. If you ever served on the Eastern European borders Free Democracies you must know the importance of our Federal Bill Of Rights. After many long years of serving our Nation, I was discharged having received a Section Eight psychiatric disability related discharge. When serving in the armed forces I and my fellow countrymen took an oath to defend the Constitution.

I still feel bound by the Oath. It is this bond that has me standing against Bill 1068. It is my heart felt belief that an infringement on the rights of individuals who find themselves in the custody of a state hospital infringes on all rights and liberties under the Constitution. This is so because all rights spring from a natural right. So to attack one is to attack the whole. I can tell you first hand that there is a great deal of restrictions concerning property all ready in place on each unit at Whiting Forensic. One can also have further restrictions placed on his ability to hold and exchange his property if one is found to be clinically unstable enough to warrant such measures. There is no need to codify more restrictions here in maximum security or else where. If you have ever believed in Democracy and the pursuit of happiness you will vote against Bill 1068.

In closing I would like to reflect on the words of Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson, around eighteen hundred commenting on the naturalization act said the following. "Where even a governmental power seeks to restrict the people's inherent rights they first introduce such measures upon those who are universally despised amongst the people."

Please remember the words of Thomas Jefferson. Kindly, I request that you protect my right to hold my meager property. This is simple and should be granted for others similarly situated at Whiting Forensic. Individuals with psychiatric disabilities are the people "universally despised among the people."