

IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Raised Bill 1068
Wednesday, February 14th, 2007

Testimony of Mr. James Kelly, AU Advocate
Whiting Forensic Division
351 Silver Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Good morning, Madam Chair and Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Monica Kelly Banta. My son James Kelly is an individual with psychiatric disabilities residing at Whiting Division of CVH. He asked me to convey his regrets that he's been unable to testify in person.

Whiting is a hospital and it should not be converted in a Prison. Individuals in recovery should not be deprived of any rights protected by the Patient Bill Of Rights. As a mother and citizen, I object to Raised Bill 1068. My son and no daughter of any other mother should be denied the right to hold property in any hospital. James has no criminal history of any conviction and he was acquitted.

He and all others similarly situated in treatment must be protected under the Patient Bill Of Rights. As an Acquittee, committed under the jurisdiction of the Psychiatric Security Review Board, the matter of property rights is of great significance. The average length of confinement of Acquittees in Connecticut is **16 years**. Nationally, the average is **4 years**. The cost of "Treatment", at Whiting Forensic is \$800.00, to \$1,400.00 per day, per person.

We are opposing Bill 1068 and request that you continue to protect the rights of individuals with psychiatric disabilities and I thank you on my own behalf for your kind attention.