

**IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE****Raised Bill 1068**

02 / 14 / 07

**Testimony of Patrick A. Arbelo, AU Advocate  
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Good morning Madam Chair and Honorable members of the Committee. I Patrick Arbelo stand here in your esteemed presence to speak about and oppose bill 1068. I am a twenty nine year old individual with psychiatric disabilities, living at Whiting Forensic. I feel that the legislative intent of the Patient Bill Of Rights is quite clear and that was and still is to provide special protections for those who find themselves in a "state" or "privately" run psychiatric hospital. The Patient's Bill Of Rights was in response to past and gross infringement on human rights in the past at state hospitals.

1068, goes against the spirit if not the letter of the provision that patients can hold and convey their own property. To limit ones ability to hold or convey ones property can hinder a number of life activities. The first, being the abilities for intellectual and educational pursuits. Those present who have practiced law or and other pursuits which require a great deal of research know that books, pamphlets, and other materials can be space consuming. We at Whiting do not have the ability or the permission to use the internet to its fullest potential. In light of this, residents must have ready access to what written materials facilitate their scholarly activities.

Another life activity which would be hindered is ones ability to entertain himself. A resident, I can tell you first hand that the hospital is lacking in activities, services and treatment. Such lack of adequate programming leaves one to fill his time. If one is limited in his ability to amuse himself it leads to boredom, frustration, and anger. I as a totally blind man who hasn't been provided with and non visual activities have felt such boredom, frustration, and anger. I firmly believe that 1068 will lead to a higher acuity level in Whiting Forensic. I urge the Committee not only to appose 1068 but also to investigate other human and civil rights violations at Whiting. Yes it is true that there are mechanism and organizations put in place by the state to handle such things, but in my opinion and personal experience such mechanism and organization are in ineffective and have been compromised by the hospital. Please protect our rights including the right to hold property at Whiting.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Committee.