

Testify for HB5861 on Wed. 3/16-Act Concerning Mentally Ill Individuals In
Nursing Homes
From Donna Sacalas

I strongly support improving the quality of care to mentally ill persons in nursing facilities by requiring minimum reasonable standards for the care and treatment of such persons.

On November 6, 2000, I moved to Clintonville Manor in North Haven which is a nursing home. I didn't want to move to Clintonville because I lost all the independence I had. There was no treatment planning for me or monitoring. A psychiatrist came once every three months but that was the only mental health care I had. This was an inappropriate place for me to be.

Most of the people were elderly. No one at Clintonville worked to help me move out even though I really wanted to. Finally my attorney arranged for a different conservator to make plans for me to move out in 2004.

If mentally ill people have to be in nursing homes, I strongly believe in treatment plans to prepare them to live more independently and ideally move to a less restrictive or at best, non- restrictive environment.

Thank you for your time.

Donna Sacalas