

**Testimony
Public Health Committee
House Bill 5810
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Good day ladies and gentlemen of the committee my name is Jonathan Rucker; and I'm here today to support House Bill 5810. In December of 2006 I suffered a mental health breakdown and attempted to commit suicide. Ladies and gentleman I suffered a sexual assault as a child, later as an adult I discovered a murder suicide; because of this and my subsequent drug and alcohol abuse I became depressed and didn't want to live anymore. In three and a half months I made four attempts; on the fourth attempt I was admitted to St. Francis Hospital ER. After being admitted I was ordered to remove my clothing which I did except my pants because I didn't feel safe; I remember asking for hospital pants I was told okay; when the nurse returned instead of hospital pants she returned with security guards. I was choked, punched, bent and twisted in ways the human body isn't supposed to be bent. At least 10 to 12 guards assaulted me. I ended up charged with assault, but God smile on me and 6 months later the charges against me were dropped. In closing ladies and gentleman I just have this to say there is a definite need for community mental health assistance in the emergency room to handle consumers such as myself. If someone would have taken the time to talk to me instead of dehumanizing me then I'm sure things would have turned out different. The mentally ill are not monsters nor are we second class citizens; we are human to and should be treated as such. Please pass HB5810, thank you and good day.