

Good day,

My name is Sue Gelinis and I am here to testify about this bill no. 6596 and why.

An article in the Waterbury Republican, Sunday edition March 1, 2009, prompted me to write about the discrimination and stigma of people with mental illness and addictions.

The article was about "downtown ghetto services". Thinking about this article made me see how a society of well-educated people could be so naïve of another. People with mental illness are portrayed as being violent, but in reality violence is inflicted upon us by a wide scale ratio. Many people with mental illness are traumatized through physical (severely beaten by a controller), sexual (force to perform against their will even some in early childhood), emotional (was called good for nothing, stupid, etc.) neglect (no human contact or love) abuse. Others are victims of war, grief arising from someone's death, or they inherited it.

Besides the negative impact from the media our state government wants agencies that service people with mental illness or addictions to register their group homes, residential service, halfway houses, where they get services at, to the proposed city and state agencies. But yet you talk about legalizing an ounce of marijuana. Legalizing marijuana to balance the budget is not okay but if it gets passed, it is sending me a double message. Where and what are you going to do for them to get them off of the marijuana? If this bill gets passed this would be discrimination no matter what logical reasons that are given for it.

Already DHMAS and their contracted agencies report client information to a main computer, DPAS, in Hartford. I feel like I am being tracked because I have a mental illness. You might call my thinking paranoia but if you look at this through my

eyes at this categorizing of a certain population you would question this too. Why should we be registered like a sex offender in this state? Are DMR's clients, people that are diabetic, people with heart disease, etc registered with the state? Under the Declaration of Independence it states all people are created equal-but in my eyes-are they?