

Good day,

My name is Karen Rodgers and I am dually diagnosed. I have come here today to testify against the Raised Bill 6596.

I have lived in Waterbury almost all my life and when I needed help with my recovery, Waterbury is where I went. I have been in recovery for many years and am successful in many areas of my life. I utilize the Mental Health Association of Connecticut, and many other community agencies.

I feel if you pass this bill, you will be discriminating against us, causing a lot of people not to look for services and help that they really need. If that would happen then Waterbury will become what was in the newspaper; a "downtown social service ghetto". I feel that this would be making us lose our right to privacy and that would be a shame.

Aren't there enough stigmas against those who are mentally ill and/or suffer from addiction?

Thank you for your time and have a good day.