

In Support of Raised HB 6554 AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS EXPERIENCING A DRUG OVERDOSE.

Dear Judiciary Committee

I write to you as a concerned parent who is in support of Raised HB #6554. My family has been through much turmoil since my son was arrested on 8/22/09 after I called 911 because I found him unresponsive on my bathroom floor due to a drug overdose. My only thought on that dreadful day was that I needed to save my son's life. I never even considered the thought that he could possibly be arrested for this. The police arrived at my house and treated him like a criminal.

Luckily, he came to on his own without needing medical assistance; however, the police immediately said that he was going to be arrested. Had I known this, I would have not allowed the police into my home, only the EMT's.

After many trips to court, my son did in fact get a felony conviction along with a 7 year suspended sentence with 2 years probation. Needless to say, my family is distraught over this conviction. Something needs to be done to change this existing law, and therefore I am in support of this new bill.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Lynn Gambardella
North Haven, CT