



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE LINDA A. ORANGE**  
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**DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE**

**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

April 7, 2011

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and the distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to hear my support for H.B 6648: An Act Concerning A Clinical Assessment of First-Time Offenders.

Events over the past several years have brought to my attention the need for this legislation. Individuals who have been arrested may not be subject to any level of psychological screening that a reasonable person might deem appropriate. There currently exists a two week holding period available to involuntarily detained arrestees for psychiatric review. This bill gives appropriate authorities discretion to extend the holding period.

All people, even those with psychiatric disabilities have civil rights. Most times, such individuals choose to go back into society not receiving the care they need. Families and loved ones become endangered and hence lose their innate rights, often being harassed and worried with a persistent fear of victimization.

It is my hope that with this bill we can come to resolution of this issue.

Again thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda A. Orange".

Representative Linda Orange  
Deputy Speaker of the House