

**Testimony before the Judiciary Committee  
In opposition to SB 452  
An Act Concerning the Care and Treatment of Persons with Psychiatric  
Disabilities  
March 29, 2012  
Deborah Poirier**

Good Morning/Afternoon Members of the Judiciary Committee.

I am here to oppose SB-452. People with disabilities should not be treated any differently than other people. We should be able to make our own choices. Putting us in inpatient or outpatient facility--It would really not help at all. They will be making people do things out of force. It won't work. You will be spending money for nothing. It will make us feel like we could not be able to trust our provider and worried they may send us off to a program we don't want.

Forced treatment will make us less likely to trust the people in the system that are supposed to be here to help and support us to live as independently as possible.

I was a person that stopped drinking for 4 years and something happened and I started drinking again, it finally came to the point I wanted to stop. I then go to the providers at Common Ground for their support. With their help I am sober again. When I was sober for 1 month I decided to get other help plus Common Ground. It helped but only because I WANTED IT!

I was the only person that was there because I was there on my own. The other people are there because they are on probation or have a case with DCF. You could tell they were there because they were forced to be there. A person should have their own choice not to be forced to be outpatient. I got me where I am today. Till this day I can trust my providers and they are there for me and that is a great feeling to have.

~Thank you for listening to me~ and I am happy to answer any questions~

Sincerely,

Deborah Poirier