

**Advocacy Unlimited, 300 Russell Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109 (860) 667-0460**

**Testimony provided by Linda Lentini**

**A Review of Raised Bill 452**

**An Act Concerning the Care and Treatment of Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities**

My name is Linda Lentini and I am here to oppose Involuntary Outpatient Commitment and forced court ordered medical treatment. As a person in recovery choice is very important to me and this bill could take away my right to make my own choices.

Many people in my life have major medical conditions such as diabetes, heart conditions, cancer, hepatitis B and C, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. When someone is given the news that they have cancer, they are also given options about their care. If they decide that chemotherapy is not the way they want to treat their cancer, they can say no. The same goes for most medical conditions except for psychiatric conditions.

Informed consent is also very important for anyone that is receiving medical treatment. What are my options, what are the chances with these options, if I decided to do something that is outside of the standard practice will my options change? If medication is one of the treatments, what are the side effects, how long do I have to take the medication, can I continue living my life on these medications?

This bill would make choices for only people with psychiatric conditions and force treatment, including medication, without informed consent. This bill is a form of discrimination against people with psychiatric conditions and it should be viewed as unlawful.