



State of Connecticut  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**Written Testimony of  
State Representative Sandy Nafis, 27<sup>th</sup> District  
and  
Senator Paul Doyle, 9<sup>th</sup> District in support of  
House Bill 5298 “An Act Concerning Involuntary Shock Therapy.”**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for raising this bill and bringing it to the Public Hearing for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 5298 “An Act Concerning Involuntary Shock Therapy”.

The main purpose of this bill is to prohibit the administering of shock therapy without the consent of the individual patient or their guardian. To allow this act to be performed on individuals without their consent is unacceptable and inhumane. This could also be looked upon as a form of malpractice if in fact this type of treatment was never needed.

**Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)**, formerly known as **electroshock**, is a psychiatric treatment

A constituent contacted us to request legislation that requires the elimination of involuntary shock therapy. Our constituent feels extremely passionate about this legislation due to his personal experience with Electroshock. He was once a patient at the Institute of Living where he was being treated due to several suicide attempts. He was shown footage and lectured on the subject of Electroshock. After viewing the footage he and his family both agreed that they did not want this type of treatment. The constituents’ physicians along with the Probate Judge that was working on his case both agreed that Electroshock would be the best treatment for him. As a result, he has experienced far more emotional issues. Please see his personal testimony which has been forwarded to the committee for review.

In closing, we thank you for your consideration of House Bill 5298 and we strongly urge your support of this bill.