

**Testimony before the Public Health Committee
S.B. 262
Friday March 8, 2013
Kristen Tierney**

My name is Kristen Tierney; I'm a lifelong caregiver of a non-custodial family member. I represent caregivers through my business Turtles & Lemonade.

I'm here today to speak in opposition of SB 262

S.B. 262 An Act Requiring Notice by Psychiatrists Concerning Patients that May Pose a Threat to Themselves or Others: Psychiatric professionals already have a duty to report dangerous intentions to the proper authorities. After hours each Psychiatric professional that I'm familiar with has a recording stating "If you are a danger to yourself, or this is an emergency, please go to your nearest emergency room." Will emergency rooms now be required to call and report a suicidal or depressed individual? Who are they reporting to? Why would a person in need of care subject him or herself to that? It is my opinion that the suicide and violence rate will rise as a result of the passing of this Bill. People who need care will be afraid to seek it. It is hard enough for people to reach out and now you'll be adding another layer of fear to their plight.

I appreciate your serious consideration of these matters as presented. We all want what's best for our children and state.