



A.B. 5124

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STATEMENT OF DERON DRUMM, Executive Director

GAE COMMITTEE

February 20, 2014

I am the Executive Director of Advocacy Unlimited, a non-profit organization that provides education courses and engages in coalition building with grassroots mental health advocates throughout Connecticut.

Advocacy Unlimited Inc. opposes the proposed legislation ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL RECORDS AND ACCESS TO RESTRICTED RECORDS IN THE STATE ARCHIVES***. While historical accounts of what treatment entailed fifty years ago would be valuable to the public – releasing the names of individuals involved with psychiatric services will result in discrimination against their relatives.

This type of historical investigation also raises concerns about an uneven approach to confidentiality based on socio-economic status or one's ability or inability to receive private services.

People who received psychiatric services should have their right to privacy upheld even after death. Their surviving families are entitled to such privacy as well.

"Building a grassroots advocacy network from the inside out."