



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE TIM ACKERT
EIGHTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

RANKING MEMBER
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Wednesday, March 4, 2015
Public Hearing Testimony
Public Health Committee

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Tim Ackert and I represent the 8th District which includes Columbia, Coventry, Vernon and Tolland. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to speak in support of House Bill 5444.

HB: 5444 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES.

I am appealing to the State of Connecticut Legislature to enact the laws needed in this state to ensure every individual who needs mental health treatment not only receives it, but also that every immediate family member who has the right to know: mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters receive full disclosure of such treatment. They are directly impacted by this person's disability and treatment, therefore they reserve the right to full disclosure of treatment so that we can address issues before they spin out of control and avoid potential tragedies. Connecticut's laws along with the decay, inadequacy, and indifference of the mental health system interfere with our right to get persons suffering from psychiatric disabilities the proper treatment. Families are essentially forced to sit and watch as things fall apart while their loved ones are in danger of potentially hurting themselves or some else.

We have an opportunity to help ensure every individual who needs treatment receives it and that every immediate family member who has the right to know, receives full disclosure of treatment, requirements and compliance so that we cannot only be aware of exposures that exist but can also address the issues proactively.