

H.B. No. 5531 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

March 18, 2016

Brian Leyh

My name is Brian Leyh and I am a registered voter in Waterbury, CT. I am here to testify on H.B. No. 5531 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.

This would be great. I cannot tell you how many times I have walked the streets of Waterbury and seen people who needed to be on psychiatric medication. Still, there is the constitutional right of a person to take meds or not. But even if you do this comprehensively, it won't work. To do this you must do some of the things you have undone. You will need teams of people to get them off the street. I did not know this existed until you cut 30 million for people with mental health issues. Yet the budget gave 300 million in a grant to UCONN to study bioscience. I found that offensive in the extreme. Why are people getting into public service? Troy is gone. You have gutted the house. Places to show these people living skills must be re-erected. Social workers must be present. If any of these people are eligible for housing or any other kind of public assistance. And for those who will be able to work, someone has to tell them about employment agencies. They must also have access to their psychiatrist if their meds are causing adverse side effects. More places like the Independence Center have to be there. Besides living skills, you get counseling. Yes, this is a great idea but it will take a ton on your part and you must rebuild what you chose just cut down. But you can do it. 300 million for Bioscience? You can redirect your funds which I've seen are many.

Brian Leyh H.C.

Thank you,

Matthew J. Rowe