

March 18, 2016

Legislative Offices

Hartford, CT

Greetings to my Esteemed State Representatives:

My name is Geraldo Rivera. I am a person in long-term recovery. I have not used since May of 2000. I am writing to you this morning because I am strongly opposed to the Bill #5531: Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Bill. I believe that this bill would only make the problem worse.

Thinking back on my life, I've realized that RECOVERY was my choice. Forcing people to seek treatment when they are not ready is just going to waste a lot of people's time, energy and resources. Recovery has to be a choice that you make on your own. If you are not ready for the lifestyle change then it will only serve as a temporary lapse in addiction. When you are an addict, people expect you to mess up and if you're not fully committed to your recovery then it will only serve as a greater emotional problem, adding fuel to the fire.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Geraldo Rivera

New Britain, CT.