



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE DAVE YACCARINO
EIGHTY-SEVENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700

HOME: (203) 980-0030

Dave.Yaccarino@housegop.ct.gov

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Testimony on rHB 5531

An Act Concerning The Care And Treatment Of Persons With A Mental Illness Or Substance Use Disorder.

Judiciary Committee

March 18, 2016

Chairmen Coleman and Tong, Ranking Members Kissel and Rebinbas, and members of the Judiciary Committee. I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify on **Raised HB 5531**, which seeks to provide authority to a conservator appointed by the Probate Court to consent to forced medication of an individual under their care in certain circumstances. I do not support the bill as currently drafted.

I respectfully ask the Committee to amend **rHB 5531** to provide authority to Probate Courts to require a medical evaluation of an individual with a substance use disorder or mental disability under certain circumstances. I offer the following suggestions to the Committee on the possible parameters for the evaluation. The evaluation should not exceed 72 hours and the Probate Courts determine that the individual poses a danger to self or others. The Probate Court should have this authority if the individual does not consent to the evaluation or is incapable of providing consent.

I welcome further discussions on the proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dave Yaccarino