

Monday, March 28, 2022 @ 1100 HRS  
Public Health Committee  
Public Hearing

**Related Bill:** \*S.B. 450 (Raised) An Act Concerning Connecticut Valley and Whiting Forensic Hospital

**Testifier:** Jill Catherine Kidik (Retired/Injured Hartford Police)

Although I appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts and concerns on the proposed changes under \*S.B. 450, I can not help but be frustrated that this statement needs to be written at all.

On May 17, 2018, just after 9 in the morning, my offender, who currently resides at Whiting, stabbed me repeatedly, twice in my throat, splitting my trachea almost in half, and repeatedly on my arms, hands and shoulder, as I fought for my life. On this date and time I was a Hartford Police Officer assigned to the Patrol Division. This was the last day I ever wore a uniform to work, and the last morning I woke up a whole person.

For almost four years now, I have been dealing with the fact that my body as it once was has been taken from me, as I will never have a full physical recovery from what my offender did to me. And for over two years I am still not understanding that I am a 38-year-old retired woman who cannot work due to what my offender did to me. I also had to survive years of waiting for trial to happen due to "Covid" restrictions. Trial that just completed last August, and here I am, only six months later, reading that a "Task Force" is attempting to change the rules on how people like my offender, who admitted that she intended on killing me, can potentially get unsupervised leave from the facility that is supposed to help her with her "disabilities" but also protect people like me...the victims, who the "Task Force" didn't bother to speak to.

I am aware that I have never worked in a medical facility or a long-term detention facility. I will not pretend to understand how all the wheels turn. But I can clearly see that there is an end game with this proposed change to the way residents of Whiting obtain temporary leave. This appears to be step one of removing the Connecticut Psychiatric Security Review Board entirely. This board has no business being removed in any part of their current responsibilities. The people on this board hold a great collective responsibility on making the right determinations for both the acquittee AND the public, on topics like temporary leave. The decision to approve temporary leave for a person like my offender is not a decision that should ever be made by a single person. There needs to be great discussion from different points of view and understandings to make a very serious decision like that.

The idea that PSRB be removed from this process makes me nauseous as there appears to therefore be no clear standard or review on determination of leave. As a victim, I should be given the opportunity to speak to my position of such leave being given. But if there is no PSRB, there is no victim statement.

When said aquittee goes on leave and stabs someone through the throat killing them, is the superintendent or commissioner or director personally responsible for that, then? The public needs to be informed who exactly is held responsible when something goes wrong. And they need to have access to how the leave was given in the first place.

I consider myself a strong person, not the same kind of strong as before 5/17/18, but strong. But the idea of my offender being free, even for just a few hours, at the say of just one voice, unless you have endured what she has put me through, you will never know the kind of feeling that gives me. The greatest fear, knowing someone might sit in the seat she wanted, and it triggers her, and no one knows how badly that encounter may end. But that is if I were even told she would be on leave. What if I am not notified, by the one person deciding to grant leave, and she is standing in my front yard, where my two young daughters are playing?

This "Task Force" has a responsibility to ensure that any and all proposed changes are made after they have totally investigated and considered how each change effects EVERYONE involved and EVERYONE who may be affected by such change happening. And make it clear who is responsible when things go wrong.

This proposed change to Temporary Leave is a reckless and irresponsible proposal.

Thank you for the time.

Jill Kidik