

To the Senate Judiciary Committee Honorable Members and to the Honorable Senator Jeff King

February 18, 2015

I respectfully submit written testimony in opposition to SB 149.

I am a Clinical Psychologist and former therapist for the Sexual Predator Treatment Program. I am quite concerned about the complacency of the administration specifically in regards to the absence of care and treatment for the residents. We know that the honorable Justice Kennedy in the original Hedricks case cautioned that we provide treatment according to the constitution and not violate the rights of those needing treatment. I believe SB 149 will further inhibit the rights of those who are civilly committed and create a situation that will decrease treatment even further.

As a professional I felt my hand were tied to the point of being unethical in providing treatment. Some of the difficulties I have encountered stem from the **lack of the following:**

1. Existing residents:
 - a. Provide for transfer of the elderly, infirmed, and mentally retarded.
 - b. Provide for transfer of individuals who have been convicted of and or who are awaiting trial for new charges. Example: For destruction of property and assault. Non-sexual related.
 - c. Provide for new testing and evaluation of all remaining residents to determine risk assessment and current needs. Recommendations should include: Outpatient services where appropriate.
 - d. Provide a maximum amount of inpatient treatment Not to exceed three years.
 - e. Re-write existing laws such that semantics do not hinder professional opinion to the court for release.
2. New admits:
 - a. Review admitting Legal criteria.
 - b. Create a behavioral health In-patient care criteria – identify people who will benefit from treatment.
 - c. Utilize established laws and guidelines for sentencing to prison. Ex: Jessica's law.
 - i. Continue to educate Judges about said laws and guidelines.
 - d. Reinstate sex offender treatment in prison from the immediate date of incarceration.

It is simply not plausible to administer treatment to persons who are elderly and infirmed, who do not have access to ADA compliant physical and mental health services.

It is simply not plausible to administer treatment to persons who committed a crime over 40 years ago.

It is simply not plausible to administer treatment to persons without a comprehensive holistic treatment modality.

It is simply not plausible to provide accurate testimony regarding the patient's progress in treatment without proper testing and observation.

The residents of current program are suffering, not being provided with treatment and are held hopeless and helpless to the present day perfunctory system. I respectfully ask before Senate Bill 149 advances the committee take into considerations the Post Legislative Audit Committee is preparing. In this way the most educated decisions that impact the residents can be made.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak today.

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