

April 3, 2025

HB 2467 NAMI Civil Commitment Bill

My name is Mathew Padrow and I urge you to support HB 2467, the NAMI Civil Commitment bills to help people in acute crisis. People like my son.

In early August of 2023 my son started showing signs of severe mental issues. He was extremely paranoid thinking that people were watching him and the police were after him. He would go into fits of rage screaming at my wife and I “to tell him the truth”, then soon after begin crying asking us “what is going on with him”. He could not have a conversation with anyone and would spend most of the time isolated in his room. My wife and I tried for weeks to get him help but our pleas would only fall on deaf ears. No one would listen to us because our son was over 18. He spent a night at Unity and was discharged the next morning even though he was still in crisis. We were finally able to get him into an intensive outpatient program, but we were not seeing any progress. After 4 weeks of our son virtually getting no help, he grabbed the chef’s knife from our kitchen and stabbed me 13 times. I am lucky to be here talking to you today.

I view myself and my son as victims. We are both victims of a lack of mental health support in our state. I literally feel like I was a sacrifice for my son to get the help he needs. Family, friends or loved ones should not have to be a “sacrifice” to get mental health help for a loved one.

My son is a GEI patient at Oregon State Hospital. I visit him often. He is doing very well now that he is on medication. He has never been a violent person, never had any physical altercations and no criminal record. This was the first violent act in his life, and it occurred after 4 weeks of psychosis with virtually no treatment. He says that during his psychosis he was living in an “alternate reality” and was frustrated with my wife and I because he did not understand why we were making him get treatment.

My son did not believe he needed any treatment, and it took him stabbing me 13 times to finally get the help he needed. This is how our state looks at mental health? A person literally needs to commit a crime in order to get help for severe mental illness? We must do better!!!

I was the sacrifice that needed to be made for my son to get the help he needed...and just like sacrifices are archaic, the thinking that a person with severe mental illness should not be required to get help is archaic as well. Please support this bill and help bring our state’s treatment of people in mental health crisis into modern times.