

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I support the vast improvement that SB114 would require of PSRB.

The first day we met with Charlie at Cascadia, the contractor that represents PSRB in Portland, we were told the advice my son received from his attorney about the law regarding a Guilty Except for Insanity plea is not followed by PSRB. It doesn't matter if my son no longer has a qualifying mental illness. It doesn't matter if he has had no symptoms for many years. Through house arrest and prison to the present day. Charlie said, "PSRB doesn't release anyone."

This came as a terrific blow to us. My son believed his defense attorney after he won his appeal, when she told him that by law he could not be held!by P SRB. He was told he would be released within a year. In doing so he would avoid any possibility of returning to prison. After his Appeal, he went to a Court for GEI before a judge who didn't allow him to give or receive evidence of his innocence. This was five years ago.

At the present time he is constantly threatened with being placed in a foster home or the Oregon State Hospital. He has apartment, his work and a partner he wants to share his life! Cascadia isn't about Health and Healing. It is there to punish with whatever punitive measures PSRB thinks are appropriate.

Cascadia who administers his "care" isn't able to retain counselors. There is a constant turnover. The several counseling positions available have not been filled. They don't offer much fulfillment for a social worker.

At his last Hearing, his counselor supported his release but PSRB disregarded his testimony. Instead they requested Cascadia to change his counselor who had supported his release. In addition PSRB contracts only one attorney for everyone in the State that is in their jurisdiction that cannot afford a private attorney. This may not be illegal but it is unethical. My son would have been released by now if he had not done a GEI plea. I respectfully ask you to consider supporting SB114. My son deserves a chance to have a quality life.

Thank you!
Gail Norgren