

Submitter: Anna Leonide Brown
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2467

Twenty two years ago, I was mis-diagnosed as Bi-Polar and hospitalized twice, against my will, to psychiatric wards, first in Portland's Adventist hospital and second in Lane County Psychiatric hospital. I was told I was a danger to myself and others, despite the fact I was being drugged by whatever new combination of psychotropic medications that MIGHT work to stabilize my outrage at the state America and her war mongering government officials.

After the poison summer of 2003, I found myself homeless, mentally and emotionally wrecked beyond any capacity to find employment mostly because I now had a mental diagnosis that could be used against me as a pre-existing condition if I ever dared question the behaviors of others. Believe me, this has happened on numerous occasions since 2003 and is a huge deterrent in ever committing myself to any endeavor I might not be able to handle due to my Handicap status.

The experiences I had in those psychiatric hospitals have left a deep scar, one of mistrust, disgust, and disillusionment of what psychiatric help can do to harm patients for a lifetime. A Dr. Webb, at Lane Psychiatric hospital, July, 2003, told me he would have the sheriff's department come hold me down if I wouldn't comply with taking ANOTHER drug that may or may not help my condition. I felt like a human guinea pig at their disposal, a subject of drug research, not a human struggling with a huge life crisis in personal, professional and spiritual aspects of her life. The drugs I'd been put on before all this crisis occurred were not working, and in fact were causing me great harm with their physical side effects that caused incontinence, menstrual chaos and debilitating fatigue and depression.

Now we know psychotropic medications do not work for people with PTSD, which is the true diagnosis I was struggling with 22 years ago. It took years for me to trust psychiatric professionals enough to uncover the severe abuses I survived in childhood, where the underlying damage happened that caused the life changing experiences of 2003.

My being held down and drugged in a panic-filled attempt to run away from all the threats surrounding me is a fresh memory still. Being told I would never heal the wounds of mental illness without a lifetime of medication was wrong because the medicine they prescribed was hundreds of dollars a month and I was unemployed, broken and homeless without a prayer of mental stability.

But I did get better. Without psychotropic medications disrupting my health and wellness, I was able to stabilize myself by disconnecting from the American Dream and all the expectations of a society that wants to continue to treat the symptoms of mental illness and not the cause because the causes are mostly society-based inequities and discrimination toward those not on the same trajectory of mainstream people.

To continue to give courts, medical professionals and random others who want to commit those in crisis is threatening to anyone who has experienced the kind of treatment I have. Until we have the resources to deal with the amount of mental illness we are suffering in America, these bills, specifically HB 2467, that give so much power to unsympathetic courts and psychiatric professionals is abominable and a recipe for disaster and destruction for those of us deemed mentally ill, with no hope of a future with such a milstone around our necks.

Please. Do not pass HB 2467!

Anna Leonide Brown

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