

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Scott Norman Rosenthal. I am 71 years of age. I was born with severe neurometabolic issues. This affected behavior. The physiological symptomatology was agonizing. For many years I was treated as “mentally ill”. The psychiatric drugs which I was prescribed worsened the symptomatology. Some permanent damage remained. Now I deal with the problems through diet and exercise, on which my health depends. This has been clinically confirmed by an M.D. who specialized in these problems. I have had to resist several attempts to have me institutionalized. The details are not within the scope of this missive. Had the services which I genuinely did need had been forthcoming I might have habilitated decades ago.

The overemphasis on institutionalization ruins the health and life potential of countless people. In some instances, it costs lives. Legal/medical safeguards are often ignored. Furthermore, it is abusive. Even when a person should be protected such overbearing laws reduce accountability and invite abuse. Recidivism is routine. Even in places where residents of mental institutions are allowed to refuse drugs they can easily be coerced into taking them.

Passing laws which make it easier to commit people against their will is a way of circumventing Constitutional safeguards and inviting overreach. I oppose HB 2467.

Scott Norman Rosenthal  
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