



Legislative Testimony
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**Written Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 512,
An Act Concerning the Psychiatric Security Review Board**

Senator Doyle, Senator Kissel, Representative Tong, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is David McGuire, and I am executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 512, An Act Concerning the Psychiatric Security Review Board.

By making it clear that the psychiatric security review board must comply with the Patients' Bill of Rights, this bill ensures that patients' right to receive treatment in the least restrictive environment is protected. The bill requires the board to evaluate multiple important factors. It requires the board to also take into account public safety, the rights of people under the jurisdiction of the board, and whether a less restrictive placement is available. This could help to ensure that the state does not infringe on patients' rights and that the placement of patients is truly in the best interests of the patients. The ACLU-CT also supports this bill's goal of ensuring that acquitted people's legal counsels have access to records and media.

We encourage the committee to support this bill.