



Legislative Testimony  
765 Asylum Avenue, First Floor  
Hartford, CT 06105  
860-523-9146  
[www.acluct.org](http://www.acluct.org)

**Written Testimony Supporting  
Senate Bill 1112, An Act Concerning Commitment of a Person  
Found Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect**

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, 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 1112, An Act Concerning Commitment of a Person Found Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect.

By limiting the amount of time an acquittee is under the supervision of the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) and providing the opportunity for civil commitment in a hospital for people who are unable to be discharged because they pose a danger to themselves or others or because they are gravely disabled, this bill ensures that acquittees are not committed to the jurisdiction of the PSRB longer than is necessary. The current law allows an acquittee's maximum commitment to be extended under a recommitment process. Under this process, someone who is a danger to themselves or others can potentially be under the jurisdiction of the PSRB for their entire life. It is unfair and unjust to extend a maximum commitment by any length of time. A court cannot simply extend the length of a person's incarceration when the person has served the maximum amount of time for the crime for which they were convicted. They should not have the ability to do so when the person is an acquittee under the supervision of the PSRB. For the person's own safety and the safety of the public, they should have the opportunity to be in a hospital setting where they can receive the care they need, rather than have their commitment extended.

We strongly encourage the committee to support Senate Bill 1112.