
From: Alan M Jenkins SR. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2007 7:57 PM
To: Hansarick, Michele

Dear Ms. Hanharick, My name is Donna M. Jenkins, the mother of a schizophrenic son, Bryant. This letter is in reference to the hearing for the Senate Bill 226. My son Bryant, has been in special education since he was in fifth grade, with emotional support, feedback for daily living and decision making, it is no wonder he is now incapable of making one rational decision for himself. In brief, my son was in treatment from 1998 till 2004 for schizophrenia, non-compliant but in treatment, until he found out that the law states it is his choice for treatment. Since 2004, he has been hospitalized at least thirty times or more with short-term treatment. He was transported from my area to other hospitals because of his non-compliance and high risk liability actions also because of HIPPA laws which in turn gave me no right to know where he was taken or what treatment was being initiated. This became very frustrating and sorrowful to watch my ill son make decisions about his own care which he was not capable of making. I eventually was not involved in his care at all and became his arch enemy because I 302ed him several times and worked with a case worker to 306 him. Each time this happened Bryant was alienated from treatment with court commitments that were not followed through. He now lives in the street because he can no longer live a normal life. Since 2005, he spent six months in prison for driving his truck thru a Turkey Hill in Red Hill, Pa. was placed on probation, not made to seek treatment and not followed up with. I tried calling his probation officer and a doctor who examined him, (through his probation officer), about getting him treatment and was told, " I can not discuss Bryant with you because of HIPPA laws. This " statement" is the ultimate weapon for no-accountability in our system as we knew it. Bryant left my area last year, since then he has been hospitalized in New York for several weeks, then given a bus ticket back to Pennsylvania with a pocket full of seroquel. He then notified me for money to eat, which he does when he has needs, took the money and headed for Florida where he has been since last year. In Florida he has been incarcerated twice and hospitalized several times as a in and out patient. I have spent many hours on phones, e-mailing, contacting senators, judges, and doctors with no help. Part of my heart is missing because I have been forced to forget I have a son. If you have ever dealt with a mentally challenged person you should know that this is just a small piece of the heartache that my husband, daughter, and myself face everyday. Please consider the Bill 226, it will change many desperate peoples lives. I would like to be considered to speak on behalf of Bryant. Thank you, Donna M. Jenkins

9/28/2007