

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FamiliesCommunities Committee](#)  
**Date:** Friday, February 5, 2016 9:28:26 AM

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I want to have a voice for Community Treatment Orders. First I want you to know who I am. I have remarried but I was the wife of [REDACTED] for whom there was a fatality inquiry for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I cant express how much relief my family felt when CTO's became part of the Mental Health Act. We felt it would save lives. I want you to know where my family felt there was gaps in the system then and now and why I feel these new amendments are again life saving! Revised criteria physicians now focus on concept of harm rather than danger, this was my experience with the doctors and law enforcement with is your husband a danger to his self or others. Along with that question I would be asked if he harmed me or again his self and I would feel like it was meant in the physical sense of harm. I would have to say no and the pit in my stomach would begin again how am I to make them understand that although he has not physically harmed anyone he needed care as he was getting deeper into his mental health psychosis. As his family member I knew this but felt like I was not given any voice in what was his care. Here is where some of the break down happened. I in desperation went to law enforcement and told them how he was driving around with his guns in his truck and I felt he was a threat to the public. They told me they were going to pick him up at the house and I was very worried someone was going to be made a widow either me or one of them and I did state this to them. They insisted this was the only way they could do this. I did get the call that they had him and he was at the [REDACTED] Hosp. I went there and presented to the Dr. why he was a danger. I can tell you that it was not made in any way easy for me to have him committed. I was told that I could just be wanting a break from my husband and I needed to give good reasoning why he needed care. I explained as best as I could and he was admitted. He was out of the hospital within two weeks although I knew he was not any better in fact he was worse he now believed his family was against him now and it was to be hell for us. His Mental health physician said [REDACTED] [REDACTED] that he was released although she did feel he needed more care. The two visits I made to his Dr. after his hospital stay to explain how bad the situation with [REDACTED] was were met once again is he a danger to you or his self. Later [REDACTED] his Dr. said they had received an envelope from the [REDACTED] in regards to his treatment there but it had sat in his file unopened. Had the Dr. opened this letter he may have been a little more ready to listen to me! There does need to be a discharge summary of a patient and any treatments that are required.

So many families are left with the care of their family members and they are stretched to their limits. CTO's give the families whom are trying to care for their loved ones hope. [REDACTED] once released stopped taking his medication if there had been CTO's in place we would never of had to have a [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]! In no way should a person suffering mental health issues as my husband was be made to make a decision about the need to take his medication! While he did take his medication he was getting a little bit better and we had some hope. Once he stopped taking his medication he went deeper into

the psychosis and the cracks in the mental health system were evident. We were then left with what was going to be and it was a very scary place for [REDACTED] and I. Mental health has a stigma in our society and until we can keep the conversation going we will again face these kind of tragic events. We need a safety net and although there have been changes more need to be put in place to protect the mental health patient and the public. As you know there are mental health persons living on the streets and in prisons this cannot be the answer they need to be with their families getting the care they need. Families need to be supported by the law so we can help our loved ones live a life of dignity. Law enforcement agencies have been stretched to their limits and in no way are able to have the resources to deal with someone whom is having a mental health issue! I seen just today an artical stating why you should not call the police but call 911 and ask for an ambulance for someone having a mental health issue. This upset me because there is a revolving door about whom to contact when this is going on. In the [REDACTED] I can tell you that the hospitals blame the police who blame the hospitals for the revolving door that the family and mental health patient seem to be passed through. We need more resources in place to focus on the mental health person and the family. We are the ones who will have their best interests in mind.

In closing I want you to know my family and [REDACTED] suffered greatly with no place to turn to. We wanted his and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to give other families hope where we had none. CTO's will save lives and that is what moving forward with revised amendments to CTO's will do.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]