

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FamiliesCommunities Committee](#)
Subject: Mental Health Amendment Act, 2007, Review - Written Submission
Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 10:02:51 PM

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing in contest of several points in the proposed Amendment.

RE:

"Community treatment order 9.1(1) Two physicians, one of whom must be a psychiatrist, may, in accordance with the regulations, issue a community treatment order with respect to a person if:

C)

(iii) in the opinion of the 2 physicians, the person has, while living in the community, exhibited a pattern of recurrent or repetitive behaviour that indicates that the person is likely to cause harm to the person or others or to suffer substantial mental or physical deterioration or serious physical impairment if the person does not receive continuing treatment or care while living in the community, (c) the 2 physicians, after separate examinations of the person by each of them within the immediately preceding 72 hours, are both of the opinion that the person is likely to cause harm to the person or others or to suffer substantial mental or physical deterioration or serious physical impairment if the person does not receive continuing treatment or care while living in the community, "

To allow the opinions of two physicians (psychiatrist or not) to be the basis for enforced treatment, which certainly, and profitably, will include forcing the individual to have drugs imposed into his/her body is a violation of "innocent until proven guilty". Since when has opinion been adequate to take away anyone's rights in Canada? This is far too light a burden and too wide a door to force treatment on an individual because their behavior may meet with the unfavorable opinion of two physicians. Involuntary treatment should only be adjudicated by a court with the individual fully able to represent his/her rights in an open forum and not behind closed doors and will full and indisputable evidence, not opinion. Simple. Constitutional.

RE:

"Designated physician or health professional 9.7(1) Notwithstanding sections 9.1, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5 and 9.6 but subject to the regulations, where no psychiatrist is available to issue, renew, amend or cancel a community treatment order, a board or a regional health authority may designate a physician or health professional for the purpose of issuing, renewing, amending or cancelling a community treatment order. "

To put the judgement of whether a forced treatment order should be issued into the hands of a "Health Professional" effectively eliminates the requirement of a psychiatrist and provides no burden or evidence of qualifications to judge human behavior. A health professional is not a mental health professional and has no right to judge the mental health of another and force treatment. The same argument

applies for amending or canceling a community treatment order.

Let's please have more rigor, due process and the right to a defense when it comes to imposing mind altering treatment to Alberta citizens against their will.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Okotoks