

HB 823

Deb Christian

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Position: SUPPORT

My son was first diagnosed with a mental illness when he was 5 in 1984. It was managed well, and he was able to graduate high school and had plans for college. He then had a severe psychotic break and never got to college. What followed next was 23 hospitalizations in 20 years. We moved him from county to county as he burned thru available services. He had lots of minor run ins with the law and when in jail he asked to be kept in isolation as he didn't get along with others. He was often denied partial hospitalization programs because he was deemed too ill to benefit". He was denied access to countless live in programs due to his history of poor compliance and getting along with others. He was often homeless and struggled with voices that told him to kill his mother (me). He was involved with an assertive community treatment program in Carroll County but they were unable to handle the demands and needs he had to stay engaged and safe. In addition to being schizophrenic he also had anosognosia. He would at times message his assigned peer support person ALL day long begging for help and getting angry that he could not get the proper help something he would do periodically but would then decline services that were available to him. At age 39, he took his life.

Sincerely,

Deb Christian