

Letter to the Editor

February 3, 2011

We are encouraging the legislature to work on Sen. Bill 55 and pass it.

It is important to psychiatric patients that the state legislature introduce and pass a statute that will establish the rights of all psychiatric patients to file a grievance at the time of their choosing and the revised statute should include requirements for due process. The current statute AS47.30.847 does not in specificity grant those rights to psychiatric patients.

The current grievance procedure statute AS47.30.847 does not cover all individuals detained for forced psychiatric evaluation or civil commitment. They are a vulnerable population.

When a private hospital with permission of the state detains a patient, then they are acting as an agent of the state—The state should write a grievance procedure statute to protect all those patients and should do it this year.

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