

Bobbi Bard
Richmond
LD 1854

Dear Legislature's State and Local Government Committee,
I'm an ICM on the Outpatient team. The team works with little over 50 clients that have been found not criminally responsible (NCR) by reason of insanity as a result of mental disease or defect. Out of 51 NCR clients, 16 have killed one or more people and an additional 24 clients have committed other violent offenses including assault, aggravated assault, elevated aggravated assault, and attempted murder. The remaining 11 clients have committed child molestation, child pornography, visual child aggression, rape, criminal threatening, terrorizing, stalking, criminal mischief, and/or arson. We, as ICM's, are tasked with keeping the client and society safe. Team members monitor clients' compliance with their court orders, support development of client skills and independence, and assess clients' symptoms and safety. As part of these responsibilities, it is the team's duty to observe and supervise clients while they are in their homes and in the community - often while working alone and without nearby backup.

This job is not for the faint of heart and can be dangerous at times. I personally, was on the team when a client was shot in our lobby, and I have been assaulted. A while ago I was tasked to drive close to two hours to pick up a client, in his own residence, that had an increase in paranoia and was refusing medication changes. A peer and I went to get this client and to transport him back to RPC. This client is in the NCR system because he took a life. We, as ICMs, had no backup except each other and 911. I am happy to say that this client went back into the hospital without incident. But as ICMs, we never know what will happen in these types of circumstance.

I urge you to support this bill, LD 1854, and show all ICMs that the good work that we do is noticed and appreciated and is paid comparable to other New England States. This bill will at least be a start to help us get to that point.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Bobbi