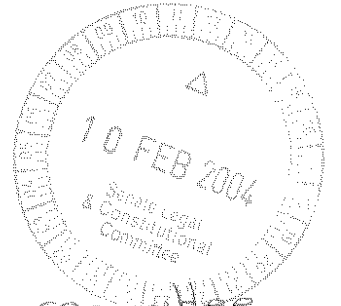


5-2-04



Senate Legal & Constitutional Committee

I understand the Senate is conducting a committee enquiry into the Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003.

Please please please do not allow this amendment to happen for by doing so you will be destroying so many peoples chances at changing there lives.

The ignorance in our society where addicts are concerned is so hard to fight. My own family, who saw my son fight and lose his battle with the demons addiction, can't understand why he could not get "over it". My son Brendan could not get work at all. - if he had our outcome may have been different, instead I look over at the box that contains his ashes and ask why.

Yes he choose to put a needle in his vein, but he did not choose the mental illness as a result of a detox that went wrong. Surely instead of feeding the ignorance but passing this amendment couldn't you look at education, and better funding to address the problem. You bring this amendment in and the jails will be worse. because this is a spirit breaker. My son died but I care about what happens to others like him. Thank you

MA White.

Christine McIVER.

My son was an avid writer. and I think the attached poem suits - he wrote it from a prison cell. - one of many

Untitled

24-3-03

6-30pm

They want us to have self worth.
So they destroy that very self worth.
They want us to be responsible
So they take away all our responsibilitys
They want us to be part of the community
They want us to be positive and constructive
So they degrade us to make us feel worthless
They want us to be non violent
So they put us where violence surrounds us
They want us to be kind and loving
So they subjed us to hatred and cruelty
They want us to stop being tough guys
So they put us where tough guys get respect
They want us to stop hanging out with losers
So they put all the losers under the same roof
They want us to stop exploiting
So they put us where ~~we~~ we can exploit each other
They want us to take care of ~~our~~ our own lives & problems
So they ensure we are totally dependant on them.
They want us all to have a home
So they build us a brand new prison
Brendan J McIver 29/3/76 to 21/8/03