

PsychRights®

Law Project for Psychiatric Rights, Inc.

July 1, 2010

Governor Chris Gregoire
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Jess Jamieson, CEO
Western State Hospital
9601 Seilacoom Blvd.SW
Lakewood, WA 98498-7213

Re: Free Emily Daguzhyte

Dear Governor Gregoire and Mr. Jamieson:

This letter is being sent in support of releasing Emily Daguzhyte from Western State Hospital. The tragedy that has befallen Ms. Daguzhyte is a classic demonstration of how people's lives are being ruined by the misguided mental health system, which insists that psychiatric drugs must be given to everyone who ends up under its sway and take them for the rest of their lives. I am enclosing a copy of the most illuminating book, *Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America*, by the award winning journalist, Robert Whitaker.

I know you must have many books on your plate to read, but if you want to understand what is going on with America's mental health system, it is a must read. From a governmental fiscal perspective, the take-away is that the selective use of these drugs will reap huge financial rewards by dramatically decreasing those diagnosed with mental illness on the disability rolls. From a humanity perspective, the take-away is that many people, such as Ms. Daguzhyte can recover even after being locked up in the hospital and drugged with brain-damaging chemicals from the time she was 19 until now at 28.

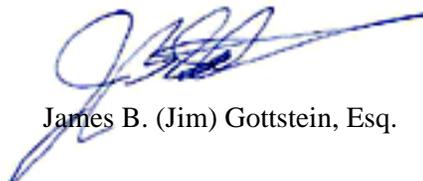
Recognizing the severity and seriousness of the type of treatment Ms. Daguzhyte is enduring at the hands of the State of Washington, the Special Rapporteur on Torture for the United Nations has issued a report, which at ¶63 states:

63. Inside institutions, as well as in the context of forced outpatient treatment, psychiatric medication, including neuroleptics and other mind-altering drugs, may be administered to persons with mental disabilities without their free and informed consent or against their will, under coercion, or as a form of punishment. The administration in detention and psychiatric institutions of drugs, including neuroleptics that cause trembling, shivering and contractions and make the subject apathetic and dull his or her intelligence, has been recognized as a form of torture. In *Viana Acosta v. Uruguay*, the Human Rights Committee concluded that the treatment of the complainant, which included psychiatric experiments and forced injection of tranquilizers against his will, constituted inhuman treatment. The Special Rapporteur notes that forced and non-consensual administration of psychiatric drugs, and in particular of neuroleptics, for the treatment of a mental condition needs to be closely scrutinized. Depending on the circumstances of the case, the suffering inflicted and the effects upon the individual's health may constitute a form of torture or ill-treatment.

(footnotes omitted).

I hope you will make sure that Ms. Daguzhyte be released from confinement and cease to be subjected to forced psychiatric drugging without delay.

Yours truly,



James B. (Jim) Gottstein, Esq.