

protections, under this proposal, are there for the individual. As a matter of fact, we have done research. Before we advanced this bill we looked at the rights of the individual under the act that we are repealing versus the rights for the individual under the Mental Health Commitment Act. The rights, under this act, under this bill, are far better and far more protective than what these individuals now have under the bill or under the statute we are repealing. That is the first thing. I've got the information here if you need a copy of it. Second off these people aren't snatched up by the police and taken and placed somewhere against their will without any recourse or any ability to respond to that action. There is a systematic process. The rights of these individuals are protected where they go through a review. There is a Mental Health Commitment Board in regions across this state that review the case as soon as possible, they look at the situation, they determine whether or not it is justified and, if it is justified, what level of care these people need, what services they need, and where they ought to be placed. This board then takes action. There is a right for the individual to be involved in the process and to speak for themselves. They have every opportunity to be involved. They have rights. They are protected. They have representation. This is something that is a very detailed and careful process. It is not what has been characterized, I think, by Senator Chambers. He also raised the thing about the definition, if you can't care for yourself, can you just take these poor people away and take them away to get them out of your hair. Well, there is language in there, and I admit to that, that he spoke to. The language is there and it is clear and we all know it. But that is not what we are trying to do with the act and we all know it. It is these individuals that are dangerous, in a more violent sense, that we are really focusing in on. These drug abusers now, if this bill is passed, would be added along with the alcohol abusers and mentally ill people. Just because you drank alcohol, or use drugs, or you have mental illness, you are not going to get committed. It is only when you are dangerous. In that danger you would have to be to yourself or others, and in the case to others it is in a sense more violent in nature than just a general sort of threat to these people and to yourself, again, violence is one of the functions. But if you are also dangerous to yourself because you are in a daze, because of mental illness, or because you are a drug abuser, or because you