

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT

Barcia Press Release

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BARCIA REINTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO STOP WALKAWAYS AT CARO CENTER

(LANSING)— Sen. Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) hopes the latest walk away from the Caro Center might finally help move legislation he is again offering to protect the public from dangerous patients residing in that facility. This morning a 47 year old patient from the Flint area who murdered his mother and was found Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI) walked away from the Caro Center. The man was later captured without serious incident.

“Since the violent attacks by Corbin Thomas on four innocent people in 2004, I have been concerned this would happen again,” said Barcia. “Despite repeated assurances from Department of Community Health officials that increased security measures had been put into place at the Caro Center, I introduced major legislation last year that would have addressed this issue. Unfortunately, that bill did not even receive a hearing. We were waiting for the new bill and are now prepared to reintroduce it this week.”

Due to the decrease in the availability of beds in our forensic psychiatric center, patients found to be NGRI and those found Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) are being court ordered to local mental health facilities intended to house the developmentally disabled and not dangerous patients. Current laws forbid restricting the freedom of movement of patients in these facilities. Barcia’s legislation would allow for restrictions to be placed on the movement of dangerous patients.

“Fortunately, today, nobody was seriously harmed,” continued Barcia. “However, we cannot continue to sit by and hope that the problem will solve itself. We need to get moving on this legislation sooner rather than later.”

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