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Constituent Statements

"The following accounts describe experiences of individuals whose suffering in the hands of the Kings County Hospital Center's psychiatric facilities is described in the lawsuit, *Hirschfeld v. HHC*.

"L.D."

L.D., a constituent represented in this action, took herself to Kings County Hospital Center because she was distraught over the sudden death of both her mother and her nephew in the same week. She told the staff that she couldn't stop crying and asked if there was someone she could talk with. Instead of receiving professional and humane services, L.D. was threatened by security officers, forcibly medicated, placed in a bed with soiled sheets, and held against her will for several weeks. When L.D. asked Kings County staff to call her family, they laughed at her. When she told staff members that she needed to pay her rent, they ignored her. After several weeks, L.D. was discharged with a prescription for an antidepressant. Because of her hospitalization, she lost the affordable room in which she lived and is now struggling with homelessness.

"J. P."

J. P., another constituent represented in this action, was admitted to Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) at Kings County Hospital on March 29, 2006. Though J.P. normally walks with a cane, on entering the CPEP the cane was taken from her and she was forced to use a wheelchair. During the night, J.P. got up from her bed to use the bathroom. When she returned, there was another patient sleeping in the bed. Because there was no place else to lie down, and no one to assist her, J. P. spent a sleepless night sitting in her wheelchair. At one point J. P. was crying because she did not want to be transferred from the CPEP to the inpatient ward. The staff responded by injecting her with medication over her objections. The next day, J.P. was transferred to an inpatient ward without wheelchair accessible bathrooms. The staff told her that the only accessible bathroom in the building is on Ward 21, but that the

bathroom had been out of order for several weeks. Because J.P. could not get her wheelchair into the bathrooms, J. P. could only shower by standing up, causing her foot and leg to swell.