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## Carolyn Reinach Wolf Featured in Newsday: Seeking Ways to Address the Mental Health Crisis

### FEATURED ATTORNEY

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**Carolyn Reinach Wolf**

Executive Partner, Emeritus

Executive Partner, [Carolyn Reinach Wolf](#), was recently featured in *Newsday* with a compelling op-ed that addresses one of the most urgent issues of our time — the mental health crisis.

# Seeking ways

Expanding involuntary commitment  
budget won't solve this complex

**BY CAROLYN REINACH WOLF**

Guest essay

**P**oliticos, pundits and advocates across New York State are taking sides with regard to Gov. Kathy Hochul's proposed expansion of involuntary commitment law, which would loosen the criteria for hospitalization to go beyond posing an immediate or substantial risk to one's self or others, and include the inability to provide for essential needs. This debate pits the need for heightened public safety against potential violations of individual freedoms, a worthwhile conversation that, unfortunately, confuses essential aspects of mental health care.

In hospitalizing those unable to care for themselves, the law

ing from chronic to facilities designed to help those experiencing episodes of mental illness. This mismatch within the revolving door of people in and out of the health care system offer little help and yield no improvements in care while making it difficult for psychiatrists to provide accurate diagnoses for people who may not be in need of hospitalization.

This discrepancy in the extent to which society, continuing to stand the complex nature of mental illness, looking for solutions to meet the needs of those with mental health issues.

Individuals with mental health issues

In her article, *"Expanding involuntary commitment won't solve our mental health crisis,"* Carolyn shares critical insights into Governor Kathy Hochul's proposed changes to New York's involuntary commitment laws. While the proposal seeks to broaden the criteria for hospitalization, Carolyn argues that this approach, which focuses on short-term confinement, risks missing the broader and more sustainable solutions required to truly support those suffering from serious mental illness.

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Carolyn emphasizes that individuals with chronic mental illness need long-term housing, access to ongoing care, and policies that reflect the realities of mental health treatment, rather than policies that remove them from public spaces temporarily. She warns that without addressing the root causes of homelessness and inadequate care, people often end up trapped in a cycle of hospitalization, incarceration, and street homelessness.

[Click here to read the full article in Newsday.](#)