

# Journal Inquirer

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## Whiting worries



Dave Zajac/Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

**Whiting Forensic Hospital in Middletown on Aug. 22, 2025. The state is looking at a proposed settlement in a federal class-action lawsuit from patients ready to leave the custody of the state's secured mental health facility.**

### Settlement fuels lawmakers' concerns over patient releases

**By Ken Dixon**

STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — State officials made a pitch Monday for a proposed settlement in a nearly 4-year-old federal class-action lawsuit from patients ready to leave the custody of the state's secured mental health facility in Middletown who need more residential beds as part of the process of returning to society.

But members of the legislative Appropriations Committee recalled high-profile cases of violent criminals committing new offenses after their release from facilities such as the Whiting Forensic Hospital. Committee members questioned the

state's process of long-term treatment and eventual release of people who have been institutionalized after they were declared not guilty of serious crimes by reason of insanity or mental incapacity.

State Sen. Martha Marx recalled the 2023 murder of Joyce Grayson, a visiting nurse, in a Windham group home by a convicted sex offender who is now back in prison on a 50-year sentence.

"They're there because of heinous crimes," said Marx, D-New London, a registered nurse who led the way for new state initiatives on mental health after Grayson's death. "If they're high risk, then they need high care."

*Whiting continues on 5*

## ICE seized student while trying to rearrest his father

**By Joshua Eaton**

STAFF WRITER

A Cheshire High School student was riding in a car with his uncle and younger brother the morning of April 6, when three vehicles filled with masked immigration agents boxed them in, according to a court filing by his attorneys.

The agents weren't there to arrest the student, Rihan, the court filing said. They were looking for his father, Zia, a former interpreter for U.S. forces in Afghanistan who spent three months in immigration detention before his release last October, according to the court filing.

It was only after the uncle said Zia wasn't with them that the officers asked for Rihan's identification and detained him,

*ICE continues on 6*

**PHILIP BUMP:**  
THE ICE ARRESTEE  
AND THE CANDIDATE  
— TWO YOUNG  
CONNECTICUT MEN  
ON DIVERGING PATHS

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