

I am writing to support Maryland legislative bills **SB928/HB1344** "Mental Health Law-Reform of Laws and Delivery of Services". I am a board-certified psychiatrist that has been caring for people with severe mental illnesses for 31 years. I am currently the Medical Director of a long-term residential program for young adults with persistent mental illnesses in Frederick, MD called Clearview Communities. I have also had significant experience working in Maryland hospitals to provide care for people with severe mental illnesses, many of whom are not aware that they are ill, and who may pose a risk to themselves or others.

I have worked with so many families who are discouraged and disillusioned that they cannot get adequate treatment for their loved ones. I believe these bills would go a long way towards correcting these problems.

In my opinion, Maryland has lagged behind many states in the country on these issues. Maryland is one of only 3 states that does not allow for civil commitment of outpatients. Maryland is also one of only 6 states that do not provide a concise definition of dangerousness in its commitment statutes. I am pleased that Maryland is considering legislation that seeks to correct this lack of clarity.

For questions or further information please contact me at 301-360-5728 or [mknable@cvcmail.org](mailto:mknable@cvcmail.org).