

**TO:** The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee

**FROM:** Annie Coble  
Assistant Director, State Affairs

**DATE:** February 28, 2023

**RE:** SB480 MENTAL HEALTH LAW – ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAMS

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Johns Hopkins **supports SB480 Mental Health Law – Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs.** This bill authorizes a county to establish an assisted outpatient treatment program (AOT). AOT helps guarantee outpatient treatment for a mental health disorder to which an individual is ordered by the court to adhere.

Johns Hopkins has significant expertise in research and treatment of behavioral health disorders, offering a broad range of intensities of services and modalities of care. Our Department of Psychiatry is consistently ranked among the very top programs in the United States for clinical care according to U.S. News and World Report. Across The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, we experience over 275,000 inpatient and outpatient visits annually. As one of the largest behavioral health providers in the State, we witness firsthand the devastating impact these disorders have on individuals. Which is why we support Maryland making a real investment into the complete behavioral health care system through this tool.

The Johns Hopkins Community Psychiatry Program offers a wide range of outpatient mental health and related services. The outpatient services are designed to serve young adults to elderly persons with clinics, mobile treatment and outreach programs, as well as specialized programs to reach specific groups within the community. AOT is a vital tool for ensuring patients attend the program to receive the services they need to improve and avoid rehospitalization.

For these reasons and more, Johns Hopkins urges a **favorable** report on **SB480**.