

**SB 480, Mental Health Law - Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs**

Senate Finance Committee

Date: February 28, 2023

From: Mary Ellen Moran, Bowie, Maryland 20716 (District 23)

Position: SUPPORT

As an individual with bipolar disorder, I am pleased to support SB 480. This Bill would ensure that I receive treatment in the least restrictive setting in the event I stop taking medication as required and begin relapsing.

SB 480 ensures a treatment plan that is comprehensive and considers all aspects of living successfully in the community. The Bill also allows for an emergency evaluation of whether I need involuntary admission to a hospital. All aspects of what is in my best interests are covered by this bill and it ensures that I get the treatment I need.

It is critical that I receive treatment as soon as possible when I need it and am unable to make a rational and informed decision to seek it. Therefore, I respectfully request that you give SB 480 a favorable report.