

HB823 Testimony, House Health and Government Operations Committee,
March 14, 2023
Jill Burgholzer, DNP
112 Saint Claire Place
Suite 202
Stevensville, MD 21666
Position: **SUPPORT**

I'm writing in support of state legislation (HB823) to enable the establishment of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs in Maryland which will provide a path to treatment for the high-risk subset of those with serious mental illness (SMI) which our current system is incapable of treating.

As a psychiatric nurse practitioner working in emergency departments and acute inpatient psychiatric units in multiple hospitals in the Baltimore area I wholeheartedly believe the addition of AOT programs would make a significant difference in reducing the suffering of our state's vulnerable citizens who are suffering from serious, chronic mental health disorders. I have reviewed data from other states that have been successful with an AOT program and urge your favorable vote.

Kind regards,

Jill Burgholzer, DNP