

HB 823

Amy Kerr

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Position: SUPPORT

Currently my son is sitting in Sheppard Pratt Hospital refusing medication because he has anosognosia (the inability to see that he is ill). He finally met the archaic criteria to be hospitalized as he became a danger to society. He bought a switchblade online, played with kitchen knives, and he also slept with them in his room. He was determined to protect his inner voices and would often do knife play in the air throughout the neighborhood. Once he is stabilized and deemed not a threat to society, he can return to our home. The single component that will keep him stabilized and not a threat to society is medication compliance and going to his psychiatrist and therapist. With Assisted Outpatient Therapy services, it will guarantee his success, and in fact will protect society while being fiscally responsible with tax payer dollars. It has been proven that AOT prevents frequent hospitalizations, jail time and homelessness. Not to mention, it allows the caretaker a vital support system and it allows me to work my full-time job, not missing days, and keeps me healthier knowing there is a team that will not allow my son to become a danger to himself or society again. Operating from a treatment before tragedies happen is a win-win. Fiscally its responsible and mentally it supports the health of both caretaker and the person living with the illness. Finally, it's the humane thing to do.

Sincerely,

Amy Kerr