

HB 823

Testimony by Lindsey Hogle

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Position: SUPPORT

My story is unfortunately a very public one - I am the maternal grandmother of Sarah and Jacob Hogle, two toddlers who have been missing from Maryland since September 2014. My daughter, Catherine Hogle, remains at Clifton T. Perkins Hospital, as she is charged with their disappearance. While many of the facts are not public in this case, her plans were to escape with her 3 children as her present situation had her feeling "punished" for having mental illness. Catherine had been diagnosed with Schizophrenia in years prior.

In spite of our family's determined plans to support her, she, like most individuals with SMI, received mental health services that did not sustain her willingness to continue treatment. Her medications also caused side effects that made their continuation a challenge. My family's devastation from this situation is palpable, yet I remain hopeful for others who could benefit from access to an evidence-based treatment program like assisted outpatient treatment programs.

We have navigated both the mental health system and the legal system in this case and still do not have answers we want nor an established treatment plan that incorporates a proven treatment regimen for someone in her condition.

It is possible for individuals with SMI to live a meaningful life. There are reasons to be hopeful when there are programs like AOT.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Hogle