

HB 823, Mental Health Law - Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs Committee Health and Government Operations

Date: March 14, 2023

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

Position: SUPPORT

As an individual with bipolar disorder, I am pleased to support HB 823.

According to Health - General, §10–102:

“It is the policy of this State:

“(1) To the best of its ability, to foster and preserve the mental health of its citizens; and

“(2) To that end, to provide without partiality care and treatment to citizens who have mental disorders.”

HB 823 reflects the above-cited statutory policy. 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.

HB 823 also ensures a treatment plan that is comprehensive and considers all aspects of living successfully in the community. As the respondent, I would be given a reasonable opportunity to participate in the development of the treatment plan

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 HB 823 a favorable report.