

Mental Health – Emergency Evaluation and Involuntary Admission Procedures and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs

Testimony for SB 453

Finance Committee

Date: February 20, 2024

From: Joanne Connors, District 19, Montgomery County

POSITION: FAVORABLE

I live with a serious mental illness. 20 years ago, I lived through numerous hospitalizations due to my lack of insight into my illness. I initially voluntarily went on the meds. But for some reason I stopped taking my medicine believing I no longer needed it.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment would have been so helpful for me. It would have given me the support and structure for staying on my meds and keeping me out of the hospital so many times.

AOT might have saved me from being homeless and spending all my savings to survive without a job. It might have saved my son from being abandoned by his mother.

AOT could only have had positive effects on my life and I wish it had been available 20 years ago when I struggled.

Please give **SB453** a favorable report. **I would very much like it to be available if I ever need it in the future.**

Sincerely,

Joanne Connors