



February 19, 2024

The Honorable Pamela G. Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Katherine A. Klausmeier
Vice Chair, Finance Committee
James Senate Office Building, Room 123
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Beidle and Vice Chair Klausmeier,

I am writing in support of *Senate Bill 453 - Mental Health - Emergency Evaluation and Involuntary Admission Procedures and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs*, which concerns mental health emergency evaluations, involuntary admission procedures, and assisted outpatient treatment programs.

Currently, Maryland is one of only three states without the ability to connect our constituents with evidence based, least restrictive, compassionate care through assisted outpatient treatment services.

Assisted outpatient care is a necessary addition to providing our constituency with a smooth mental health continuum of care that provides protection from harm, increases health, and reduces unnecessary incarceration and emergency hospitalization of Marylanders. Passage of this legislation will ensure that we can keep our cherished community members in our community, while providing them with the care and resources they need.

I strongly urge this committee to give *Senate Bill 453 - Mental Health - Emergency Evaluation and Involuntary Admission Procedures and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs* the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone".

David Trone
Member of Congress