

Favorable Bill SB453  
Alexis K. Harrison  
Prince George's County

I am a Maryland citizen and State Government Employee. I am concerned about improving treatment for those with a serious mental illness (SMI) -- one of our most vulnerable populations. Maryland needs to establish a strong, evidenced-based assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) program that reduces homelessness, hospitalizations, arrests, incarceration, trauma, and suicide for those with a SMI. An AOT program would be a viable option to address these public health crises.

While it is sadly too late for some with a SMI, passing an AOT bill will save the lives of others with a SMI. Please see the February 5, Baltimore Sun Op-Ed about the tragic loss of life at:

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/2024/02/05/maryland-assisted-outpatient-treatment/>.

It is time for Maryland to join the 47 other states that have laws to authorize an AOT program. Let's help to ensure that no Marylander will be left behind. AOT saves lives!

Please give a favorable report to SB453. Make the right choice for Marylanders suffering with SMI and pass this bill!