

Favorable Bill SB453
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I am a long-time friend of the caregiver whose son recently lost his life. Please see the February 5, Baltimore Sun Op-Ed about the loss of another life at: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/2024/02/05/maryland-assisted-outpatient-treatment/>.

I am aware of the struggles that she and her son experienced trying to get him treatment. As a friend and a citizen, 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. AOT saves lives!

While it is sadly too late for some with a SMI, passing an AOT bill will save the lives of others with a SMI. 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.

Please give a favorable report to SB453.