

Testimony
Supporting Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Bills in Maryland

16 February 2024

Favorable SB453

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We are Maryland citizens 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!

We have a family member who has a mental illness. It has been a true journey of the unexpected.

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.

Please, please, give a favorable report to SB453.

Signed

-s-

Clarence and Jaculin Jones