

Favorable SB453
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I am a family member of a loved one who was diagnosed with a severe mental illness (SMI). I want to ensure that all outpatient treatment options are available to individuals with a SMI and their families. I am asking you to support SB452 to establish an assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) program in Maryland. Studies show that AOT programs reduce hospitalizations, victimization, incidents of arrest and incarceration, and homelessness.

And, AOT saves lives. While it is sadly too late for some with an SMI, passing an AOT bill will save the lives of others with a SMI. Please see the Op-Ed in the February 5 edition of the Baltimore Sun about the tragic loss of life at: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/2024/02/05/maryland-assisted-outpatient>.

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 has to die or be left behind. Please give a favorable report to SB453.