

Favorable SB453  
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I am a Maryland citizen 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. 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. Please give a favorable report to SB453 to help ensure that no Marylander will be left behind.