



February 12, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations  
Committee  
Room 241 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Bonnie Cullison  
Vice Chair, Health and Government  
Operations Committee  
Room 241 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Vice Chair Cullison,

I am writing in support of *House Bill 0576 - Mental Health - Emergency Evaluation and Involuntary Admission Procedures and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs*, which concerns mental health emergency evaluations, involuntary admission procedures, and assisted outpatient treatment programs.

Currently, Maryland is one of only three states without the ability to connect our constituents with evidence based, least restrictive, compassionate care through assisted outpatient treatment services.

Assisted outpatient care is a necessary addition to providing our constituency with a smooth mental health continuum of care that provides protection from harm, increases health, and reduces unnecessary incarceration and emergency hospitalization of Marylanders. Passage of this legislation will ensure that we can keep our cherished community members in our community, while providing them with the care and resources they need.

I strongly urge this committee to give *House Bill 0576 - Mental Health - Emergency Evaluation and Involuntary Admission Procedures and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs* the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone".

David Trone  
Member of Congress