

Favorable HB 576

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To Whom it may concern:

I am Ashlee Reyes, Advocacy Coordinator, for Treatment Advocacy Center (TAC). TAC's mission is to prevent the suffering and harm caused by failing to treat severe mental illness and to give all people whose lives are affected by it the chance to thrive. I believe HB 576 can do this for the residents of Maryland.

Assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) is the practice of providing community-based mental health treatment under civil court commitment. Maryland is one of only three states without an AOT program. This must change.

AOT is a practical, evidence-based intervention designed to promote treatment adherence regardless of lack of insight (anosognosia), to help individuals with SMI function safely in the community and develop habits of treatment engagement.

Please support HB 576 and change the lives of those with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) and their loved ones.

Thank you,

Ashlee Reyes

Advocacy Coordinator

[Treatment Advocacy Center \(TAC\)](#)

