

Favorable Bill HB576

Loretta Brown

Maryland Resident

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 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 give a favorable report to HB576.

Thank you,

Loretta Brown