

HB576 SUPPORT
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Health & Government Operations Committee

I'm writing in support of state legislation (HB576) to enable the establishment of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs in Maryland to provide a path to treatment for the high-risk subset of those with serious mental illness (SMI), which our current system is incapable of treating.

As a psychiatric nurse practitioner working in emergency departments and acute inpatient psychiatric units in multiple hospitals in the Baltimore area, I wholeheartedly believe the addition of AOT programs would make a significant difference in reducing the suffering of our state's vulnerable citizens who are suffering from serious, chronic mental health disorders. I have reviewed data from other states that have been successful with an AOT program and urge your favorable vote.