

Favorable Bill HB576  
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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 save lives! While it is sadly too late for some 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/>, passing an AOT bill will save the lives of others with a SMI.

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 HB576.