

SHANEKA HENSON
Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 203
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3578
800-492-7122 Ext. 3578
Shaneka.Henson@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 3, 2026
SPONSOR TESTIMONY
Senate Bill 0942
Assisted Outpatient Treatment
Surrender or Seizure of Firearms

Chair Beidle and Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce and provide key details regarding SB 0942- Assisted Outpatient Treatment – Surrender or Seizure of Firearms.

For the record, I am Senator Shaneka Helson from the 30th Legislative District of Anne Arundel County, MD.

The intent of this legislation is to require that under certain circumstances that a court can issue an order that an individual who has been ordered to comply with assisted outpatient treatment to surrender to law enforcement any firearms currently in their possession.

The court order also requires that the individual within the assisted outpatient treatment program cannot purchase or possess any firearm for the duration of the period that they are within the program.

The legislation requires that law enforcement officials establish procedures related to the surrender or seizure of the firearm of the individual within the assisted outpatient treatment program.

This Bill does not change the intent of SB 453 which established a critically needed state “Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program” that became law as of January 25, 2025. Instead, it fixes a loophole, found within the State Code about regulated firearms, rifles, or shotguns. In correcting this loophole, this bill strengthens the existing legislation signed into law by Governor Moore in 2023 for the States public defenders to provide representation in assisting outpatients with the procedures for the established outpatient program.

With us today to provide essential information about the factual research behind the real-life reasons for this Bill is:

- Paul Nestadt, M.D. (virtual)
- The James Wah Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
- Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry
- Cynthia Lewis, MD Director of adult psychiatric emergency services
- Sean Malone - Advocate
- Dr. Ann Hanson and Dr Michael Young, Maryland Psychiatric Society (Virtual)

After you hear the testimony from Dr. Nestadt and others here today, I request that you give a favorable report to SB 509.