

SB 707, Mental Health Law - Danger to the Life or Safety of the Individual or of Others  
- = Definition (Right to Treatment)  
Senate Finance Committee  
Date: February 24, 2026  
From: Mary Ellen Moran, Bowie, MD 20716  
Position: SUPPORT

As an individual with bipolar disorder and a son with schizophrenia, I am pleased to support SB 707. The current references to **danger to the life or safety of the individual or of others** are open to interpretation. The definition in SB 707 eliminates this uncertainty by including all aspects of danger to self or others. This Bill would ensure persons with serious mental illnesses would receive needed treatment when unable to make an informed decision to seek treatment.

When I become manic and then psychotic, my behavior is not threatening; it is dysfunctional and bizarre. I can't safely drive a car, prepare meals or take proper care of myself and my son, 63 years old, who lives with me as a result of his serious mental illness. Also, I cannot make a rational and informed decision on any matter including whether to seek treatment.

Once when visiting my sister in Virginia, I became irrational and acted weird. She called 911 and a crisis response team was sent. I don't recall much about the event but do remember that a police officer who was a member of the team talked me into going to the hospital. According to my sister, it took hours.. She also told me that some members of the team were of color and that I used the "N" word. This is the only time in my life that I said the "N" word.

Upon arrival at the hospital I was vaguely aware of where I was and concerned they might not admit me. When the police officer removed the handcuffs I became violent and had to be restrained. I was in the hospital for five days, during which I received medication and other treatment, became stable and was discharged. I then was able to safely resume activities of daily living.

Based on the foregoing, I respectfully request that you give SB 707 a favorable report.