

SB 707

Liz Montaner

47 Franklin St

Annapolis MD 21401

Position: FAVORABLE

I am the mother of a 41-year-old son diagnosed with Treatment Resistant Schizophrenia. After several years of increasingly odd behavior, his symptoms became severe in 2010. Unfortunately, he had no insight into his illness because he had a neurological deficit called anosognosia which prevented him from understanding that his thoughts were not reality based. Although he was gravely disabled, it was unlikely he would have been involuntarily admitted to a Maryland psychiatric hospital because he was not an obvious danger to himself or others. His ability to take care of his basic needs, however, was deteriorating rapidly. My son ended up in New York City in the middle of a snowstorm without any coat to protect him from the weather. He was convinced he had cancer, and we were able to persuade him to go to a hospital to check it out. Once inside, the New York hospital was able to commit him within 24 hours based on his obvious inability to take care of himself. Today my son is stable, takes his meds regularly and lives independently. If Maryland's danger standard included grave disability and psychiatric deterioration, we could have pursued treatment sooner for our son. Research shows that the earlier treatment starts, the better the long-term outcome.

Liz Montaner

47 Franklin St

Annapolis MD 21401

443-871-1143