

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL #HB1476

Independent Oversight and Review Board for Health Care of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities-Establishment

Date: February 27, 2020

From: Amy Goldberg-Cutler

To: Chairman Luke Clippinger, Madame Chair Vanessa Atterbeary and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Re: SUPPORT FOR BILL#HB1476

On **November 14, 2013**, my son David Benjamin "Ben" Goldberg was arrested and held in the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in Clarksburg Maryland. At the time he was being treated for with Tourette's Syndrome, ADHD, OCD and Bipolar Disorder in addition to chronic pain from a spinal fusion and constant acid indigestion. When arrested Medications being taken were: Abilify, Lamictal, Tenex, Guanfacine and Prilosec. He was informed that he would not receive Abilify or guanfacine but would continue to receive his other medications and medical staff had prescribed Neurontin 3 times a day for his chronic pain.

On **February 4, 2015** he received his full complement of medication and was transferred from Clarksburg to MCTC in Hagerstown.

On **February 24, 2015** he is transported to Patuxent for evaluation. He has no meds in the morning and receives 1 dose on Neurontin at night. The burden of getting treatment falls on the inmate to request doctor visits, etc.

March 5, 2015 he receives a dose of Prilosec despite the fact that the nurses have signed off that he had been receiving it all along. They say that he can get Motrin 600 mg as needed but it is only available twice a day. He does not see a doctor until March 11, 2015 following an email to the prison sent by a member of the House of Delegates on March 6, 2015. On March 9, 2015

I am contacted by Dr. Randall Nero Director of the Institute to inform me that Ben would be seen by a doctor tomorrow. We had a discussion about the non-formulary drug issues and I re-iterated that the medications that he had been receiving at Clarksburg had him stabilized and that over the years many combinations had been tried unsuccessfully.

March 11: I am informed that Ben was seen by one doctor and will be seen by a second doctor the following week. After seeing a second psychiatrist, he is told that his medications are not formulary in the State system, and he can choose to take the medications they dispense, or he will not be getting any additional medication.

These medications were ones he had been prescribed in the past and had adverse effects on him and the doctors changed them to those he was taking when arrested.

On **March 24** he is transferred to Eastern Correctional Institute. Put in top bunk despite records indicating he has a medical condition that necessitates a bottom bunk.

It was not until **April of 2016** following a court order that he receives Lamictal and Guanfacine, despite a notation in his records that he receives Lamictal.

The callous disregard and disrespect and the State's institutional failure to provide adequate care is mind boggling. The system has to be held accountable for treatment of inmates who should have the right to consistent medical care.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Goldberg Cutler