

**SB 480**

**Testimony by Olivia Longus**

**Montgomery County**

**Position: SUPPORT**

I am an intern at Help in the Home a private organization that assists individuals suffering from severe mental illnesses and gets them to a point where they can live independently. This can be done for these individuals but with the extra support that would come from Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) individuals can improve their health faster.

Barbara is an individual at Help in the Home who would benefit from AOT. She is someone who refuses to attend follow up treatment. She is a woman in her late 50s who has lived a life of psychiatric torment. Barbara is hospitalized on a very frequent basis for suicidality and medical issues that arise from self-neglect. Because she does not follow up with treatment after discharge. Barbara's periods of time out of the hospital grow shorter and shorter as her symptoms grow more severe with age.

I believe Barbara is an example of how AOT will save the state money by decreasing the time she spends in the hospital.

Sincerely,

Olivia Longus

Intern

Help in the Home LLC