



November 21, 2025

The Honorable Senator Lydia Edwards, Chair  
Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
Massachusetts State House  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Representative Michael S. Day, Chair  
Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
Massachusetts State House  
Boston, MA 02133

**Re: Testimony in opposition to S1115/H1801 *An Act to provide continuum of care for severe mental illness***

Dear Chair Edwards, Chair Day and Members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary,

We write to you today in opposition to bills S.1115 and H.1801 *An Act to provide continuum of care for severe mental illness*. Baltic Street Wellness Solutions stands as a trailblazing leader in the realm of mental health support and advocacy, wholeheartedly dedicated to transforming the lives of individuals grappling with mental health challenges. Our unwavering commitment spans over 25 years, propelling us to become the largest peer-led organization in New York State, offering an unparalleled and innovative approach to mental health.

Traditional AOT and mandated mental health programs rely on legal compulsion to ensure compliance with treatment. While such measures may provide short-term stabilization, they often fail to promote long-term recovery or address the systemic barriers such as trauma, poverty, and stigma that drive disengagement.

The Intensive Support and Engagement Team (INSET) model, being implemented by Baltic Street Wellness Solutions, offers a voluntary, relationship-based approach to supporting individuals under or at risk of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT). Unlike coercive, court-mandated systems, INSET is a peer-led multi-disciplinary team that demonstrates that trust, empowerment, and choice are not only ethically superior but also yield more sustainable and cost-effective outcomes. Baltic Street's INSET program intervenes earlier and more holistically, offering peer-led, voluntary support that reconnects individuals to care systems through empathy, cultural responsiveness, and practical assistance. The model centers on collaborative engagement rather than enforcement.



Coercive treatment models perpetuate several systemic challenges:

- **Limited sustainability:** Outcomes often deteriorate after legal mandates end.
- **High system costs:** Mandated programs require costly judicial oversight and reactive interventions.
- **Inequity:** Individuals of color and those living in poverty are disproportionately subjected to mandated care.

These limitations underscore the urgent need for **voluntary, engagement-driven alternatives** that honor human rights and promote self-directed recovery

Massachusetts has the opportunity to help these same individuals without the threat of AOT by implementing programs, like INSET, that avoid a coercive approach that reinforces mistrust in mental health systems, especially among marginalized populations.

We have taken the liberty of attaching our full policy brief and policy recommendations to this testimony.

We hope that Massachusetts might learn from our experience in New York State to bypass a coercive approach and immediately adopt a holistic approach like INSET to compassionately address the needs of the so-called “AOT eligible” population. As such, we respectfully encourage the Committee to reject S1115 and H1801 *An Act to provide continuum of care for severe mental illness*.

Sincerely,

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Program Director - INSET  
(Intensive & Sustained Engagement Team)  
**Baltic Street Wellness Solutions**

**Modupe Mujota** (She/Her/Hers)  
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