

November 20, 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,

As a mother whose daughter was hospitalized with psychosis and experienced both involuntary and voluntary treatment, I strongly oppose the legal provision known as the Assisted Outpatient Treatment. The name is, in fact, misleading, because in many cases it is the opposite of what really is of assistance to the patient and their family. In my own experience, I saw my daughter's problems only made worse when she was subjected to involuntary treatment.

She recovered under the care of a provider who knew how to build connection with her patients, even when they were psychotic and delusional, and how to include both the patient and the family in the treatment. My daughter is now healthy and thriving, but I have since met many parents who have come to regret their child's involvement with the AOT. At best, it helped their loved ones in the short term, but the serious long-term problems – family conflicts, loss of trust, the often debilitating side effects of medications that the patient could not refuse – outweighed the short-term gains for most families. In our experience as parents, lackluster providers often resort to court orders and lobby for measures, such as AOT, under the pretense of the patients' "best interest," but in reality because without court orders, patients would choose doctors who know how offer evidence-based voluntary treatment.

Please reject S1115 and H1801 *An Act to provide continuum of care for severe mental illness*. I appreciate the opportunity to share my experience and submit these comments to the Committee.

Sincerely,

Yulia Mikhailova,



Socorro, NM