



We Can't Afford to Wait to Implement Laura's Law

LAURA'S LAW WILL SAVE THE STATE MONEY, KEEP THE PUBLIC SAFER, AND HELP THOSE WHO NEED IT THE MOST

- Laura's Law provides community-based, assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) to individuals who – as a result of their mental illness – are unable to access community mental health services voluntarily.
- AOT is a less restrictive, less expensive alternative to involuntary hospitalization.

MHSA FUNDS CAN PAY FOR LAURA'S LAW SERVICES

- MHSA funds can pay for mental health services provided by AOT.
- Prop. 63, MHSA, approved by California voters after passage of Laura's Law, requires that its funds be used in a nondiscriminatory manner. MHSA programs must not discriminate against Assisted Outpatient Treatment recipients.
- Laura's Law can help a mental health system make more effective use of existing resources.

ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT (AOT) WORKS

- Studies throughout the country overwhelmingly show AOT – when implemented – works. Studies on New York's AOT law (Kendra's Law) showed that among individuals under an assisted outpatient treatment order in the community:
 - o 74 percent fewer experienced homelessness;
 - o 77 percent fewer experienced psychiatric hospitalization;
 - o 83 percent fewer experienced arrest; and
 - o 87 percent fewer experienced incarceration.
- AOT helps those who need it most and improves quality of life.
- AOT reduces the most severe consequences of lack of treatment.
- AOT keeps the public safer.
- AOT saves money (i.e., reduction in hospitalization costs, incarceration costs)

For more information contact the Treatment Advocacy Center at (703) 294-6001 or savelives@treatmentadvocacycenter.org or visit us at www.lauraslaw.net