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Senate Judiciary Committee

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Senate Committee on Judiciary Chair, Senator Kellie Warren, Vice Chair, Senator Rick Wilborn, Ranking Minority Member, Senator Etha Corson, and the full membership of Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning HB 2353.

NAMI Kansas is the state organization of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a grassroots organization whose members are individuals living with mental illnesses and their family members who provide care and support. As a leading advocacy organization for individuals and families affected by Mental illness, NAMI Kansas wholeheartedly supports HB 2353

AOT programs are good and beneficial for Kansas! AOT stands for Assisted Outpatient Treatment, and it's a program that provides comprehensive mental health services to individuals in the community. Here are three reasons why AOT programs are beneficial:

1. **Improved Access to Care:** AOT programs ensure that individuals with severe mental illnesses have access to the treatment and support they need. By bringing services directly to the community, AOT programs help eliminate barriers like transportation or lack of insurance that may prevent people from receiving care.
2. **Enhanced Recovery and Stability:** AOT programs focus on providing ongoing support and treatment to individuals with mental illnesses. This approach helps promote recovery, stability, and overall well-being. AOT teams work collaboratively with clients to address their unique needs and goals, which can lead to better outcomes and quality of life.
3. **Reduced Hospitalizations and Crisis Situations:** AOT programs aim to prevent psychiatric hospitalizations and crisis situations by providing proactive, intensive, and individualized care. By offering support in areas such as medication management, housing, employment, and social connections, AOT programs can help individuals stay out of the hospital and maintain stability in their lives.

These are just a few reasons why AOT programs are beneficial for Kansas. They play a crucial role in supporting individuals with mental illnesses and promoting their overall well-being. So please Senators can we have your support for bill HB 2353, to help give Kansasans the resources to overcome this Mental Health Epidemic.

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