

Alexander, Jacquelyne

From: Toni Wellen <toni@silcom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2019 10:30 AM
To: Lavagnino, Steve; Williams, Das; Hartmann, Joan; Hart, Gregg; Adam, Peter
Cc: sbcob
Subject: RE: Funding for AOT or Laura's Law

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

TO: Board of Supervisors
Re: A fully implemented Assisted Outpatient Treatment, called Laura's Law in Santa Barbara County

I have personally, and on behalf of the Coalition Against Gun Violence, been advocating for Laura's Law since 2014. I am close friends with Laura's parents, Amanda and Nick Wilcox, who have worked tirelessly to reduce gun violence in honor of the loss of their daughter, Laura. Amanda recently testified before Congress for the GVRO.

RE: ongoing support of AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment), called Laura's Law in CA, moving to a fully implemented program with sustainable funding.

The AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment) program has demonstrated its effectiveness in Santa Barbara as well as many other counties. This process that allows courts to compel a very small group of highly symptomatic individuals with severe mental illness-- those with a past history of arrest or violence-- to stay in treatment as a condition for living in the community. Equally important, it commits the mental health system to provide the treatment. It serves the most difficult populations.

I urge the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors to vote affirmatively to fully fund this program for those troubled individuals who need help and cannot speak for themselves. Additionally this program has proven to be cost effective as it helps to eliminate the "revolving door" effect that costs the county more for law enforcement and incarceration.

Respectfully,

Toni Wellen, Chair
Coalition Against Gun Violence