



**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**March 5, 2020**

**Senate Bill 699**

**Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports Senate Bill 699 to allow people to expunge criminal records related to the possession of marijuana before the State changed its policy to decriminalize this possession.

The collateral damage caused by the war on drugs continues to harm people in Maryland. As this committee has heard repeatedly over the years, people with criminal records are too often denied employment, housing, food stamps, and scholarships, without any due consideration of the details involved in the records.

Discrimination against people with substance use disorders can be a significant barrier to recovery efforts. Criminal records pose one of the greatest difficulties to obtaining employment and housing, two things crucial to successful, long-term recovery. This bill provides one more avenue to help people improve their chances of success.

We urge a favorable report on SB 699.

*The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.*