



**House Judiciary Committee
February 18, 2020**

**House Bill 607
Public Safety - Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence**

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 607. Crisis Intervention Teams (CITs) are partnerships between law enforcement, mental health and addiction providers, and peers providing health interventions to address the needs of people in crisis situations in a way that is intended to prevent involvement in the criminal justice system.

HB 607 proposes the creation of a Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence within the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to provide technical support to local governments, law enforcement, behavioral health agencies, and crisis service providers and develop and implement a "crisis intervention model program." It is important to ensure best practices are developed and shared as these model programs are most effective with involvement of people with lived experience.

Maryland must prioritize the development of a statewide comprehensive crisis response system. We urge a favorable report on HB 607.

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.