



**Senate Finance Committee
February 23, 2022**

**Senate Bill 707 - Health Insurance – Provider Panels –
Coverage for Nonparticipation
Support**

**Board of Directors
2021 - 2023**

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MATOD represents over 65 healthcare organizations across Maryland that provide and promote high-quality, effective medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction. We support Senate Bill 707, Consumer Payment Protection.

My name is Joshua Grollmes, and I am President of MATOD and a treatment provider. I have been in the substance use disorder (SUD) treatment field for 14 years and the organization I work with is in network with 3 major insurance carriers. We have been established since the early 2000s and were only able to get credentialed after hiring a company to do so on our behalf. This was a very expensive process that many new SUD/mental health providers are not able to afford until they have been established for many years. We tried to get the credentialing done in-house and gave up after many failed attempts. I believe this to be the primary reason many programs are unable to become credentialed with large insurance carriers.

Supporting this bill would benefit the consumer and the service providers. Many small, rural programs are not insurance experts and get run over when trying to get credentialed with large corporations. We didn't know about rate negotiations and would have been getting reimbursed a very different rate had we not hired an experienced credentialing person. Supporting this bill would close the gap and hopefully ensure that providers get reimbursed at an appropriate rate across the board. That would be for in-network and out-of-network providers.

COVID has dramatically increased the need for mental health and substance use disorder care in Maryland and being a small program in a rural area, we know treatment is much harder to find. We need to be more accessible to patients and passing this bill would be really beneficial.

Thank you.

Joshua Grollmes, MS
President

MATOD members include community and hospital based Opioid Treatment Programs, local Health Departments, local Addiction and Behavioral Health Authorities and Maryland organizations that support evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment. MATOD members include thousands of highly trained and dedicated addiction counselors, clinical social workers, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, peer recovery specialists and dedicated staff who work every day to save and transform lives.