



**House Health & Government Operations Committee
February 10, 2022**

**House Bill 625
Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland – Establishment
Support with Amendments**

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) supports House Bill 625 with two important amendments.

The workforce shortage is real and was a problem before the pandemic. Substance use disorder treatment programs throughout the state have raised this issue and seldom is there a meeting where program directors are not talking about long-standing vacant positions and the difficulties of hiring and retaining staff. There are a number of reasons for the shortage and this legislation proposes they all be examined.

NCADD-Maryland would like to offer the two following amendments to the bill to ensure the needs of community-based substance use and mental health disorder programs are considered in the Commission's work:

Amendment No. 1

On page 2, after line 5, insert "the Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health, or the Deputy Secretary's designee;"

Amendment No. 2

On page 2 in line 29 after "practice," insert "community-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment programs."

NCADD-Maryland appreciates the comprehensive approach proposed in this legislation and with these amendments, we **urge your support of House Bill 625.**

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.