



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

**House Bill 670  
Maryland Health Care Commission - Study on Expansion of Interstate Telehealth**

**Support with Amendments**

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) supports House Bill 670 with 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 to examine the issue of interstate telehealth as part of the solution.

NCADD-Maryland would like to offer the following amendments to the bill to ensure all health occupation boards and professions are consulted and the issue of multi-state compacts be part of what is examined.

**Amendment No. 1**

...in consultation with the health occupations boards, health professional associations, and interested stakeholders, report on:

- i. the adoption of interstate health professional licensure compacts across the country;
- ii. ways the Governor and Maryland General Assembly can advocate for the adoption of health professional licensure compacts by other jurisdictions, particularly with the District of Columbia and other adjacent jurisdictions; and
- iii. an assessment of health professional licensure compacts that are expected to be developed within the next five years.

NCADD-Maryland appreciates this legislation and with these amendments, we **urge your support of House Bill 670.**

*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.*