



House Health & Government Operations Committee  
February 23, 2022

House Bill 517  
Consumer Health Access Program for Mental Health and  
Addiction Care – Establishment  
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 House Bill 517, 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 access to care has been an ongoing issue for our patients. The COVID 19 pandemic has exacerbated the issue and the creation of the Consumer Health Assistance Program (CHAP) will help our Marylanders tremendously.

Being able to deliver assistance to our already at risk population by someone with lived experience is amazing. Our health care system is very complicated and having a person with lived experience help guide consumers in a positive direction is fantastic. CHAP will deliver assistance through one central entity (the “hub”) and eight community-based organizations serving as “spokes” in regions across Maryland. The program will help all consumers, regardless of their insurance type, and will have the capacity to help in a variety of languages.

Being from a small rural area our resources are much harder to come by and having help from the CHAP program consumers may actually be able to get the help they want and so rightfully deserve. MATOD urges a favorable report on House Bill 517.

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.*