



Senate Finance Committee

February 7, 2023

Senate Bill 201

**Maryland Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Programs -
School-Based Behavioral Health Services - Reimbursement
Support with Amendments**

NCADD-Maryland supports Senate Bill 201 which would ensure that behavioral health services provided in schools could be reimbursed by Medicaid, with some amendments. We believe that any child enrolled in Medicaid who is receiving mental health or substance use services in schools should have those services supported by Medicaid. Some services provided in school settings are already reimbursed, but making more services reimbursable will add to the resources schools can invest in supporting students.

Children today have complex needs and effective interventions most often involve families. The amount of services that can be provided by school-employed mental health and substance use disorder clinicians is limited. We ask this legislation to **include community-based providers** who are often better able to engage children and their families throughout the year. We also ask that the legislation **include providers who can address substance-related issues** as well.

With these changes, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 201.

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.