



Board of Directors 2021 - 2023

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House Health & Government Operations Committee February 7, 2023 Support of House Bill 271

The Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD) urges a favorable opinion on HB 271. Our mission is to promote high-quality, effective medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction, so individuals, families, and communities can lead healthy lives in recovery and without stigma.

MATOD is pleased to support HB 271 - 9-8-8 Trust Fund - Funding. This bill mandates a one-time-only funding mandate of \$12 million for FY 2025 to ensure continued progress in the implementation of this essential service.

Congress designated 988 as the new phone number the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. In July 2022, 988 went live. All phone companies now route calls to local crisis call centers that are part of the Lifeline network. The local crisis call centers provide 24/7 free, confidential emotional support to people calling for help.

Being able to give out the number 988 makes it much easier on staff and patients in the behavioral health field. This replaced a process where we gave out multiple 10 digit numbers to patients when completing personal safety plans. Sadly, most personal safety plans are discarded by patients before they even make it home. Being able to give them a 3 digit number makes it much easier for both the patients and staff to remember when dealing with crisis. We now need to make sure the funds are invested into the system so that people who need help can get it.

We urge a favorable opinion on HB 271.



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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.