



**House Health & Government Operations Committee
February 7, 2023**

**House Bill 271
9-8-8 Trust Fund – Funding**

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports support House Bill 271 – 9-8-8 Trust Fund – Funding. This bill requires the Governor to include in the budget bill for fiscal year 2025 an appropriation of \$12,000,000 to the 988 Trust Fund established by the legislature last year.

The new Lifeline 988 Lifeline went into effect last July and existing funding has already helped Lifeline providers around the state hire new staff and respond to a 20% increase in call volume. It is expected that calls will significantly increase as word about the Lifeline continues to spread. Maryland must ensure that its eight regional call centers are adequately resourced to support an increase of calls for help.

The state will also need to build out other related crisis response services such as crisis stabilization centers and mobile response teams that go into the community in order to support 988 callers who need a higher level of care. Senate Bill 3 will ensure funding will be available.

We urge a favorable report on House Bill 271.

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.