



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

February 19, 2025

SUPPORT

HB 783- Health Occupations- Structural Racism Training

We appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of The Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine (MDDCSAM). MDDCSAM is a chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine and represents physicians and associated healthcare professionals from different disciplines with expertise in treatment of addiction. Our goals are to diagnose, treat, and advocate for people with the chronic disease of addiction and its related problems.

As addiction medicine physicians and other professionals, we treat patients with a disease that has been highly stigmatized and criminalized, with profound racial and ethnic disparities in the consequences of substance use and differential access to evidence-based treatment. Thus, we are keenly aware of the importance of regular collection and dissemination of data to inform health policy designed to mitigate racial and ethnic disparities. Additionally, we recognize the importance of having a diverse and inclusive health care workforce, with providers who are aware of their own subconscious prejudices and biases and thus are better equipped to respond to and implement policies designed to advance health equity.

MDDCSAM is committed to being an active participant in addressing health equity. We urge a favorable vote on HB 783.