

SB 519 Public Health – Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities – Safety Plan  
Senate Finance Committee February 18, 2020

**SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

*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.*

MDDCSAM appreciates the goals of the legislation and the opportunity to work with the sponsor.

We support SB 519 with an amendment indicating that the required safety plan is for the individuals served and not for the surrounding community per se. And that any behavioral health program that is required by its accreditation organization to create a community relations plan shall submit the plan to the state. Also, that before the Department of Health approves a facility and grants a license, it shall require the facility to establish and implement a safety plan for the safety of the individuals served, and a community relations plan if required by its accreditation organization.

We ask for a favorable report with the sponsor’s amendments.

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