



House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 12, 2020

House Bill 332

Mental Health - Emergency Facilities List - Comprehensive

Crisis Response Centers,

Crisis Stabilization Centers, and Crisis Treatment Centers

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 332. This bill is permissive, allowing programs providing various crisis services to be included on a list of services that local health departments, judges, and local law enforcement units receive as possible resources where people subject to an emergency petition can be taken. This would allow people in crisis to access services in the most appropriate setting. Currently, hospital emergency rooms are the only places people may be taken.

Hospitals are not always the best place for someone experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder crisis to receive help. The various behavioral health crisis programs that exist are specifically designed to help people in crisis situations. Allowing these programs as options is all the bill changes, making sure interventions are not limited to expensive and often ill-equipped emergency rooms.

We urge your support of House Bill 332.

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.