



**House Health & Government Operations Committee
February 20, 2020**

**House Bill 196
Maryland Health Benefit Exchange - Establishment of a State-Based
Health Insurance Subsidies Program**

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 196. This bill will establish a new program to help Marylanders afford health insurance. As opponents to universal health coverage continue to battle against the Affordable Care Act, the Maryland General Assembly stands out as a body leading the nation in assuring that the State will continue to step up and help people afford the health coverage we all need.

Access to health insurance that includes robust substance use and mental health disorder service coverage saves lives and saves money. As the State is faced with the continuing overdose crisis and a growing number of suicides, especially among young people, Maryland must all it can to make sure people are able to get the health care they need.

We urge a favorable report on HB 196.

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.