



**House Appropriations Committee
February 10, 2021**

House Bill 786

**Department of Human Services, Maryland Department of Health, and
Department of Education - Easing Access to Family Support Programs
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 786. This proposal would help people in recovery by streamlining the application process for various assistance programs that people with low incomes need to survive.

Utilizing modern technology, it should be possible to create an electronic “one stop shop” for people to fill out application forms that can determine eligibility for health care, food, transportation, and housing supports. This would enable people to significantly reduce time needed to travel among the various service agencies in their area. Using a streamlined process would also reduce the amount of time case workers and care coordinators would need to spend on administrative tasks and instead, provide more direct care to more people in a timely way.

NCADD-Maryland recognizes that adapting large, complicated IT systems cannot be accomplished overnight. Passing HB 786 will make it clear that doing so is an important State priority.

We urge a favorable report on HB 786.

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.