



House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 9, 2021

House Bill 560 Human Relations - Discrimination in Housing – Reentry-Into-Society Status

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 560. The collateral damage caused by the war on drugs continues to harm people in Maryland. People with criminal records are too often denied housing, employment, food stamps, and scholarships. This discrimination leads to substantial community problems, including homelessness and recidivism.

For people with substance use disorders who have criminal records, the use of those records by landlords and property owners to deny housing is a significant barrier. Not being able to find affordable housing is a barrier to recovery and can lead to relapse and re-offense. When people have paid their debt and served their sentence, they should not continue to be punished. This bill provides one avenue to help people improve their chances of success.

We urge a favorable report on HB 560.

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.