



**Senate Finance Committee
January 26, 2021**

**Senate Bill 96
Public Health - Behavioral Health Programs and Health
Care Facilities - Safety Plan**

Support

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2019 - 2021**

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MATOD supports Senate Bill 96. The bill requires safety plans for clients and staff at behavioral health programs and that those plans be submitted to the State for licensure. All behavioral health programs should have such plans.

The other part of the sponsor's amendment mandates those programs whose accreditation organizations require it, to file their community relations plan with the State. This document along with numerous others would be required in order to obtain a license.

The State of Maryland adopted policy just a few years ago mandating that all substance use disorder and mental health programs receive accreditation from one of several national accrediting organizations. Opioid Treatment Programs have always had this requirement. These national accreditation organizations require treatment programs to have numerous policies and plans regarding all aspects of their operations. Safety or emergency preparedness plans are required. In addition, some programs are required to have community relations plans by their accreditation organizations. Having all of these plans filed with the Behavioral Health Administration is appropriate.

We ask for a favorable report.



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MATOD members include community and hospital based Opioid Treatment Programs, local Health Departments, local Addiction and Behavioral Health Authorities and Maryland organizations that support evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment. MATOD members include thousands of highly trained and dedicated addiction counselors, clinical social workers, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, peer recovery specialists and dedicated staff who work every day to save and transform lives.