



House Economic Matters Committee

February 15, 2022

House Bill 496

Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 496. The creation of a Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program in Maryland would allow families to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave to care for the birth or adoption of a child, family members with serious health conditions or disabilities, family members who are leaving for military deployment, or for their own health conditions.

For families dealing with substance use disorders, this bill would allow people who are in treatment or supporting a family member in treatment to take time off from work and focus on beginning the recovery process. People may need time off of work in order to take part in a residential program, or even an intensive outpatient program. People may need time off to support a family member in intensive treatment. The family member may need assistance with transportation and keeping track of appointments with counselors, case managers, and other health care providers.

With only one in ten people with a substance use disorder accessing treatment, policies like FAMLI will help people keep their jobs, keep their incomes, and find recovery. We urge a favorable report on House Bill 496.

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.