

**HB0971 - Senate\_FAV\_MedChi, MDAAP\_Substance Abuse**

Uploaded by: Pam Kasemeyer

Position: FAV

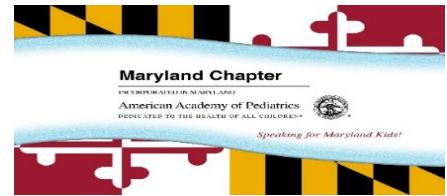
# MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Nicholas R. Kipke

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone

DATE: March 30, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 971 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Substance Abuse Treatment – Network Adequacy*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 971.

House Bill 971 seeks to address access to care challenges for children under the age of 18 who require health care services related to and treatment for alcohol and drug abuse. The legislation requires the Maryland Department of Health and the Behavioral Health Administration to ensure that the Medical Assistance Program has an adequate network of providers available to provide these essential services. There has been an increasing incidence of alcohol and drug abuse amongst our youth and ensuring access to high quality services that are specifically aimed at and appropriate for youth is essential to not only ensuring appropriate care and intervention in the short-term but also decreasing the potential future incidence of substance abuse disorders. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone  
410-244-7000

# **MPA Testimony 2022 - Support - HB 971 - Senate Hea**

Uploaded by: Paul Berman

Position: FAV



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March 30, 2022

Senator Delores Kelley, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Bill: HB971 Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, urges the Committee to provide a **favorable report on HB 971**.

Maryland's citizens who receive health care through Maryland Medical Assistance have long suffered with limited access and sometimes no access to needed substance use providers across the entire delivery system, including outpatient services, intensive outpatient services, day treatment, residential treatment, and hospital-based treatment. As a result, many individuals with substance abuse issues, especially if they are under 18 years old, are not able to access needed treatment for their substance use problem.

HB 971 addresses the problem by requiring that the Health Department and the Behavioral Health Administration be required to ensure that the delivery system has an adequate network of substance use practitioners for children under the age of 18 years old. We know, of course, that problems simply do not go away because they are untreated or because we look to another system, like the legal system, to address the problem. This does not work.

HB 971 addresses an access to treatment issue. HB 971 is straight-forward in its approach by requiring that the Maryland Medical Assistance Program have an adequate number of substance use treatment practitioners for children under 18 years old.

For these and other reasons, the MPA urges you to **SUPPORT HB 971**.

Please feel free to contact MPA's Executive Director Stefanie Reeves at [exec@marylandpsychology.org](mailto:exec@marylandpsychology.org) if we can be of assistance.

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Sincerely,

*Linda McGhee*

Linda McGhee, Psy.D., JD  
President

*R. Patrick Savage, Jr.*

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.  
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association  
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs

**HB 971\_Fav with Amendments\_MCF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ann Geddes

Position: FWA



## **HB 971 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Substance Abuse Treatment – Network Adequacy**

**Committee: Senate Finance Committee**

**Date: March 30, 2022**

**POSITION: Support with Amendments**

**The Maryland Coalition of Families:** Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) helps families who care for a loved one with behavioral health needs. Using personal experience, our staff provide one-to-one peer support and navigation services to family members with a child, youth or adult with a mental health, substance use or gambling issue.

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MCF strongly supports HB 971 with amendments to make it an emergency bill, and to immediately begin to direct the \$500,000 appropriated for the bill in the Governor's Supplemental Budget to treatment services for adolescents.

The last six years has seen the closure of all four of Maryland's residential substance use treatment programs for adolescents that accepted Maryland Medicaid. Therefore for the last six years, youth with Medicaid who require residential substance use treatment (who have been assessed to need ASAM 3.5 or 3.7 level of care) have been out of luck. They might bounce in and out of Intensive Outpatient Programs, receive inappropriate treatment in mental health programs, become involved with the Department of Juvenile Services, or die. Families are desperate for their child to get the help they need.

The Maryland Department of Health has not fixed this problem.

HB 971 as written simply states that the Department of Health and the Behavioral Health Administration will have an adequate network of substance use treatment providers for adolescents. The Fiscal Note, however, states that BHA reported that they will need \$500,000 to hire a consultant to do a needs assessment. **What a waste of money that would be.** We know the need – at this moment I am aware of three youth on Maryland Medicaid who have been assessed (multiple times) as needing residential treatment for their substance use disorder, who are getting nothing.

One 17 year old girl, who overdosed twice since December and had to be administered Narcan, is now sitting in Sheppard Pratt. The treatment team there tried to get her a scholarship to go to the only residential substance use treatment program for adolescents in Maryland, but they were unsuccessful. Sheppard Pratt has determined that she is ready for discharge from the

hospital, but the mother is refusing to take her home, fearing for her daughter's safety - yet another instance of a hospital overstay. The mother has been told that Child Protective Services will be brought in and she will be charged with child abandonment.

That \$500,000 in the Governor's Supplemental Budget must be immediately directed to provide the treatment that youth are being assessed as needing. MDH must provide Medicaid-eligible children with the appropriate substance use treatment. **Therefore we urge a favorable report on HB 971 with amendments.**

**Contact: Ann Geddes**  
**Director of Public Policy**  
**The Maryland Coalition of Families**  
**10632 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 234**  
**Columbia, Maryland 21044**  
**Phone: 443-926-3396**  
**[ageddes@mdcoalition.org](mailto:ageddes@mdcoalition.org)**

**MDDCSAM - HB 971 FWA MA Access SUD treatment.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joseph Adams, MD

Position: FWA





*MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.*

HB 971. Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Substance Abuse Treatment - Network Adequacy  
Senate Finance Committee. March 30, 2022

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

**Alcohol and drug use and addiction are among the leading causes of death and disability in the United States** (1) Treatment for Substance use disorders has been designated as an “Essential Health Benefit” in the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

**It is well known that treatment services for substance use treatment services are particularly lacking for young people.**

Over 20 million Americans struggle with addiction, but **often do not get the treatment they need**, for reasons related to stigma, misunderstanding and inadequate insurance coverage. (2)

The 2008 Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) legislated parity between benefits for the treatment of addiction and mental health disorders and benefits for the treatment of other medical conditions. **However, the promises of parity have not been realized.** (3)

According to the CDC, there were over 100,000 fatal overdoses in the U.S. during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, from April 2020 to April 2021.

This is the **highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded** in the U.S. in a single year. This represents **a nearly 30% one-year increase, the fastest increase on record.** (4)

We respectfully urge a favorable report with an amendment to direct money provided by the Governor for FY 2023 directly to treatment services for youth.

Thank you,  
Joseph A. Adams MD, FASAM, Chair, Public Policy Committee

#### REFERENCES:

1. US Burden of Disease Collaborators, Mokdad AH, Ballestros K, et al. The State of US Health, 1990-2016: Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Among US States. JAMA. 2018;319(14):1444–1472. doi:10.1001/jama.2018.0158
2. [www.shatterproof.org/learn/addiction-basics/addiction-in-america](http://www.shatterproof.org/learn/addiction-basics/addiction-in-america)
3. Melek SP, et al. Addiction and mental health vs. physical health: Widening disparities in network use and provider reimbursement. Milliman Research Report. November 19, 2019. <http://www.milliman.com/bowman>
4. [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm). National Center for Vital Statistics.

**NCADD-MD - HB 971 FWA - Medicaid SUD Treatment for**

Uploaded by: Nancy Rosen-Cohen

Position: FWA



**Senate Finance Committee  
March 30, 2022**

**House Bill 971  
Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Substance Abuse Treatment –  
Network Adequacy**

**Support with Amendments**

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) supports House Bill 971 to create in Maryland a full continuum of substance use disorder treatment for young people enrolled in Medicaid. We ask for two important amendments. The first is to make this an emergency bill and the second is to direct funding immediately to pay for treatment for young people with substance use disorders.

Over the last few years, there has been a swift, steady, and dramatic reduction in substance use disorder services for young people in Maryland. Both outpatient and residential levels of care have either ended their treatment services for adolescents, or they have completely closed. We know the alternatives when a young person cannot enter treatment are inappropriate and expensive visits to emergency rooms, commitments to juvenile detention, or death.

Nationally, while drug use among minors was trending down before the pandemic, overdoses among young people was on the increase. Maryland data shows an 8% increase in the number of people under 25 who died of overdoses in the first two quarters of 2021 over the previous year.

While House Bill 971 seems to mandate services be available, the fiscal note shows that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) will not provide services until a needs assessment is completed. **This is unacceptable.** Services are needed now. We ask that the bill be made an emergency bill and that the funding provided by the Governor for FY 2023 for purposes of a needs assessment be used to provide treatment to young people who are currently seeking services. In addition, we request the term substance “abuse” be replaced with the clinically appropriate phrase “substance use disorders” where it appears in the bill and the title.

**With these amendments, we urge your support of House Bill 971.**