



## **Maryland Addictions Directors Council**

**House Health and Government Operations Committee**

**March 30, 2022**

### **Letter of Information on Senate Bill 3**

#### **Facilities - Disabilities, Juveniles, Behavioral Health, and Health Care - Children and Community Relations Plans**

Maryland Addictions Directors Council (MADC) represents outpatient and residential SUD and dual recovery treatment across the State of Maryland. Our members provide over 1,000 residential treatment beds across Maryland and provide treatment on the front lines of the Opioid Epidemic.

MADC had no position on Senate Bill 3 and its cross-file, House Bill 297, as introduced. We are grateful to the sponsors for accepting a change to allow for more frequent updates to the safety plans that are required. **There was an amendment added, however, to Senate Bill 3 that puts providers in a position of opposition.**

An amendment was adopted in the Senate that would require behavioral health providers comply with two additional national accreditation standards related to fire safety. Providers are already required to meet multiple fire code standards, through COMAR and national accreditation. These additions are unnecessary and inappropriate, as they are designed for very large residential settings, such as hospitals.

We urge an amendment to strip the language on page 3 of Senate Bill 3, lines 24 through 30. Without stripping this language, this bill would create an unnecessary standard and an unattainable one.

Sincerely,

*Kim Wireman*

Kim Wireman  
Board Member, MADC