



**House Health & Government Operations Committee  
February 24, 2022**

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

**Support**

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.

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

And 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.

Maryland has no Medicaid funded residential treatment for adolescents with substance use disorders. How long can we let this go on?

**We urge your support of House Bill 971.**

*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.*