



**Senate Finance Committee
February 28, 2023
Support of Senate Bill 441
Maryland Medical Assistance Program –
Prescription Digital Therapeutics**

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2021 - 2023**

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The Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD) urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 441.

On December 10, 2018, the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approved mobile medical applications to help increase retention in outpatient treatment program. Per FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, "As part of our efforts to address the misuse and abuse of opioids, we especially focused on new tools and therapies that can help more patients with opioid use disorder successfully treat their addiction. Medical devices, including digital health devices like mobile medical apps, have the potential to play a unique and Important role in contributing to these treatment efforts."

Addiction is a chronic relapsing disease that needs continuous support and easy access to treatment. Digital health devices that are available by prescription offer a cognitive behavioral therapy to help the patient abstain from substance use and to help them stay in treatment. Prescription digital health devices are available for use with opioids, alcohol, THC, cocaine. Patients need all the tools available to keep them engaged. This is an option to support patients to remain in treatment and help them succeed.

For these reasons, we urge your support of Senate Bill 441.

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.