



**House Health & Government Operations Committee
March 28, 2023**

**Senate Bill 255
Public Health - Home- and Community-Based Services for
Children and Youth
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports Senate Bill 255. Services to children in Maryland have been decimated in recent years. Outpatient adolescent substance use disorder treatment programs have all but disappeared. Mental health services for young people can take months to access. There needs to be a comprehensive approach to addressing the varied needs of children and youth in our state.

Senate Bill 255 is one piece to this puzzle. As is made clear in the bill, these are services that are proven to be effective to treat young people in their communities. This is a dramatically less costly approach than residential or hospital care. With the increased attention paid to children's behavioral health since the pandemic started, Maryland needs to utilize the tools that are at the ready. Services provided through the 1915(i) waiver can be developed relatively quickly with the assurance that the funding stream will be there to support the services and those delivering them.

We know there are better outcomes when the right services are provided to people – young or old. We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 255.

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.