



## Health & Government Operations Committee

February 16, 2023

### Support of House Bill 291

#### Health Occupations – Clinical and Graduate Alcohol and Drug Counselors – Licensure

#### Board of Directors 2021 - 2023

##### President

*Josh Grollmes, MS*  
Serenity Health  
JGrollmes@serenityllc.net

##### Secretary

*Melissa Vail, LCPC*  
Sinai Hospital Addictions  
Recovery Program (SHARP)  
MAVail@lifebridgehealth.org

##### Treasurer

*Babak Imanoei, D.O.*  
Northern Parkway Treatment  
Services, BH Health Services  
BabakImanoei@gmail.com

##### National AATOD Liaison

*Kenneth Stoller, MD*  
Johns Hopkins Hospital  
The Broadway Center  
KStolle@jhmi.edu

##### Immediate Past President

*Vickie Walters, LCSW-C*  
IBR/REACH Health Services  
VWalters@ibrinc.org

The Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD) urges a favorable opinion on HB 291. Our mission is to promote high-quality, effective medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction, so individuals, families, and communities can lead healthy lives in recovery and without stigma.

MATOD is pleased to support HB 291. The language “regional” should be removed altogether. An accredited school is just that, accredited. Personally, I am from Kansas and attended a division 1 accredited college in the Midwest. When moving to Maryland in 2007 to work and obtain a Master’s degree it was very easy to get into a graduate program. However, when applying for a Drug and Alcohol Trainee Certificate through the BPCT it was more difficult to obtain a certificate even though the course descriptions were the same as the regional descriptions here. Given the workforce shortages in the health care field overall, this will hopefully offer some relief in the Drug and Alcohol related field. Thank you so much for your time and consideration in support of HB 291.

Joshua Grollmes, M.Ed.  
MATOD Board President



c/o IBR/REACH Health Services

2104 Maryland Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21218



(410) 752-6080



[www.matod.org](http://www.matod.org)

*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.*