



Maryland Addiction Directors Council

Senate Bill 794

Behavioral Health Programs – Residential Programs – Food Service Facility Requirements

House Health & Government Operations Committee

March 28, 2023

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Maryland Addiction Directors Council (MADC) represents substance use disorder (SUD) and dual recovery outpatient and residential providers in Maryland. MADC members provide over 1,200 residential beds across the State and advocate for quality SUD and Dual Recovery outpatient and residential treatment. MADC advocates for treatment quality and evidence-based practice in services to SUD clients.

MADC supports SB 794 specifically that SUD residential programs (ASAM 3.1, 3.3, 3.5 and 3.7) may not be required to comply with food service facility regulations under COMAR 10.15.03 if the residential program has fewer than 17 clients.

While MADC supports regulation of SUD residential programs, the capital required to open a SUD residential program in some areas of the State is already bordering on prohibitive especially for smaller programs. MADC does not believe the added significant expense of a commercial kitchen is needed for smaller units.

MADC supports SB 794 as a sensible exclusion to food service facility requirements for SUD Residential programs smaller than 17 clients.