



March 28, 2024

House Bill 1396 - Drug and Alcohol Treatment Programs - Discharge of Patients and Referral Services – Standards
Finance Committee

Position: Support As Amended

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

The Recovery Housing & Treatment Centers Coalition of Maryland (RHTC) writes to express support with the new amendments of House Bill (HB) 1396, a piece of legislation that is aimed at bolstering the standards for drug and alcohol treatment programs within our state. This bill, through its thoughtful amendments, underscores a commitment to improving the continuum of care for individuals grappling with substance use disorders—a commitment that is both necessary and timely.

RHTC is a coalition of recovery homes and treatment centers located throughout Maryland. We are deeply committed to our organization's mission to addressing the opioid crisis and supporting individuals and families affected by substance use disorders.

HB 1396's mandates the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to conduct a comprehensive study on the linkages between various levels of care within substance use disorder treatment and recovery continuum. This study is not merely academic; it is a crucial step toward identifying gaps in our current system and recommending tangible improvements to ensure a seamless transition for patients across different treatment modalities.

Furthermore, the bill as amended, represents a significant advancement in our state's approach to substance use disorder treatment. By establishing stronger linkages between levels of care and setting higher standards for treatment program discharge and referral processes, this bill paves the way for more affective, compassionate, and holistic care for those in need.

We urge the committee to recognize the importance of this legislation and support its passage. Together we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless individuals and families affected by substance use disorders. Thank you for considering our testimony in support of House Bill 1396.



For more information, please contact:

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