



## **Maryland Addiction Directors Council**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**March 20, 2025**

**House Bill 869 - Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025**

**Support**

Maryland Addictions Directors Council (MADC) represents outpatient and residential substance use disorder and dual recovery treatment across the State of Maryland. Our members provide over 1,800 treatment beds across Maryland and provide treatment on the front lines of the opioid epidemic.

MADC strongly supports the Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025. The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC)'s 2024 telehealth report recommends continuing to allow use of telehealth. Among several reasons cited, the MHCC report notes that telehealth has achieved acceptance across somatic and behavioral health settings while expanded use of telehealth has created new opportunities for some underserved communities to access somatic and behavioral healthcare. The MHCC report also recommends continued unrestricted use of audio-only behavioral health telehealth services and continued payment parity for behavioral health and somatic care delivered using audiovisual and audio-only technologies.

MADC providers see firsthand the increased access to behavioral healthcare treatment using telehealth to deliver outpatient services flexibly to clients. MADC strongly supports HB 869 Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025.