



**House Health & Government Operations Committee
February 13, 2025**

**House Bill 869
Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 869 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025. The past five years have taught providers and health care consumers a great deal about our health care system. One of the obvious lessons learned is that telehealth is a life-saving tool in the delivery of health care services, including substance use disorder and mental health treatment. The Maryland Health Care Commission has been studying the outcomes and their recommendations are strongly in favor of continuing current access to care through telehealth.

With the existence of a massive digital divide, the use of the telephone has been the only way tens of thousands of Marylanders have been able to access health care services. We must continue the use of telehealth, including audio-only technology. Surveys have also shown consumer satisfaction and efficacy.

With the two guiding principles that telehealth should be used when clinically appropriate, and when preferred by the consumer, the use of telehealth should continue permanently. We strongly urge a favorable report on House Bill 869.