



**House Health & Government Operations Program
March 13, 2025**

**House Bill 1502 - Baltimore City - AIDS Prevention Sterile Needle and
Syringe Exchange Pilot Program - Revisions**

Support

NCADD-Maryland strongly supports House Bill 1502 - Baltimore City - AIDS Prevention Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Pilot Program - Revisions. Baltimore was the first jurisdiction in Maryland to establish this harm reduction program, that has proven in study after study to reduce the spread of infectious diseases and save people's lives. Syring Service Programs (SSPs) are successful at:

- Reducing the transmission of infectious diseases, including HIV and Hepatitis C;
- Distributing naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses;
- Linking people to various health services, including substance use disorder treatment; and
- Providing for the safe disposal of syringes.

We support Baltimore City's request to update the state statute that governs City programs. HB 1502 will modernize the statute to reflect current public health best practices, local government needs, and eliminate stigmatizing language.

We ask for a favorable report on HB 1502.