



**Senate Finance Committee  
March 3, 2026**

**Senate Bill 39 - Behavioral Health - Certified Community Behavioral Health  
Clinics and Outpatient Mental Health Centers - Reimbursement Rates  
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports Senate Bill 39. The intent of the bill is to build into the rate-setting methodology, greater collaboration with providers and greater accountability with the State. We understand the sponsor has amendments to make the bill become a crossfile of House Bill 772, and we support that effort.

Consultants who are conducting the study need to have their work informed by the people who are responsible for running behavioral health programs. Meaningful participation means working collaboratively to not just identify what looks like a good policy, but making sure it is implementable.

We also believe that to produce recommendations that we all can be confident in, a state organization that is independent from the funding function should be in the lead. With the Maryland Health Care Commission overseeing this substantial project, we believe the product will be seen as more objective.

Finally, the original mandate for this rate-setting study was created in 2017 and was intended to be inclusive of all levels of substance use and mental health care. Given the extended delay in starting this study, and given some external factors, we support this process starting with the certified community behavioral health clinic model and Outpatient Mental Health Clinic level of care. We would want to make sure that the workgroup evolves to include providers of other levels of care as the study is expanded.

We therefore urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 39.