



**Maryland Addiction Directors Council
6207 Belair Road
Baltimore, MD 21206**

March 23, 2026

The Honorable Benjamin F. Kramer
Senate Finance Committee

Re: Support for HB 498- Certificate of Need- Intermediate Health Care Facilities

Senator Kramer and Committee,

On behalf of the Maryland Addiction Directors Council (MADC), we respectfully submit this letter in **support of Senate Bill 444 (SB444)**.

MADC represents both public and private organizations working across Maryland's substance use disorder treatment continuum. Our members include providers responsible for ensuring access to safe, high-quality, and evidence-based care for Maryland residents. SB444 is an important step toward strengthening Maryland's behavioral health infrastructure by modernizing how intermediate care facilities providing medically managed residential substance use disorder treatment services are regulated under the Certificate of Need (CON) process.

SB444 supports Maryland's ability to respond to urgent treatment needs by:

- Reducing unnecessary administrative barriers that delay the opening and operation of medically managed residential SUD treatment programs.
- Preserving appropriate state oversight, including required notice and Commission review.
- Supporting timely expansion of treatment capacity in communities experiencing increased overdose risk, high acuity needs, and gaps in access to care.
- Encouraging system flexibility while maintaining alignment with the State Health Plan and public interest standards.



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MADC supports SB444 because it maintains key protections—such as advance notice requirements and Commission discretion—while removing overly restrictive CON requirements that can slow or prevent expansion of essential substance use disorder services.

For these reasons, MADC respectfully urges a favorable report on SB444. By modernizing the Certificate of Need process for intermediate care facilities, this legislation will support timely, responsible expansion of medically-managed residential treatment services—ensuring Maryland can meet urgent needs, save lives, and strengthen access to high-quality care across the state.

Respectfully submitted,

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MADC Secretary
Maryland Addiction Directors Council (MADC)