



**House Health Committee
March 3, 2026**

**House Bill 1264 - Public Health - Maryland Medical Assistance Program
- Tobacco Cessation
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 1264. Nicotine addiction substantially increases the risk of cancer, stroke, and heart attacks among other negative health impacts. According to NIH's National Cancer Institute, Medicaid enrollees have a higher smoking prevalence than the general population. This means that Medicaid pays for the health care services related to smoking.

Providing people who smoke with greater access to tobacco cessation treatments can reduce myriad Medicaid costs, and also reduce morbidity and mortality from cancers and other tobacco-related diseases. But as of 2024, only 26 states provided comprehensive insurance coverage of evidence-based cessation treatments for people enrolled in Medicaid. Maryland is not among them.

Just as Maryland covers treatment of other substance use disorders for Medicaid enrollees, it should cover and provide the greatest access possible to tobacco cessation tools. These treatments are highly cost-effective and evidence-based, resulting in reduced long-term health care costs and lower mortality rates.

We urge a favorable report on House Bill 1264.