



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

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall  
Chair, House Health Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates

**Re: Support for HB 886 – Certified Peer Recovery Specialists – Coverage Under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance**

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the House Health Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Addiction Directors Council (MADC), we respectfully submit this letter in support of House Bill 886 (HB 886).

MADC represents both public and private organizations providing substance use disorder treatment and recovery services across Maryland. Our members include providers responsible for ensuring access to safe, high-quality, and evidence-based care for Maryland residents. We support HB 886 because it would expand access to certified peer recovery specialist services in any setting and require coverage through both the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and private health insurance plans.

Peers are a proven, essential part of the recovery continuum, in all levels of care and in all communities. Ensuring coverage for peer services will strengthen engagement, improve continuity of care, and support long-term recovery outcomes for Marylanders.

MADC also supports the bill's requirement that the Maryland Department of Health convene a workgroup to improve the certification process, including exploring reciprocity, which will help strengthen and grow Maryland's peer workforce.

For these reasons, MADC urges a favorable report from the Committee on HB 886.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy E. Blalock, LCPC, LCADAS, MAC, NCC, BCPC, CADS, KAP  
Maryland Addiction Directors Council (MADC)