



**Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
March 16, 2021**

**Senate Bill 936
General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Overdose Awareness Day**

Support

NCADD-Maryland is in support of *Senate Bill 936 - General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Overdose Awareness Day*.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the pre-existing opioid overdose death fatality crisis has worsened. In Maryland, third quarter data from the Maryland Department of Health shows a 14% increase in the number of opioid overdose deaths in 2020, over the same period the year before. The numbers were up even before the impact of the pandemic early last year.

A commemorative day is not going to fix this crisis. It will, however, support individuals in celebrating their recovery journeys, allow families to acknowledge their losses, and provide communities greater opportunity to discuss needed strategies to help people with substance use disorders.

We urge a favorable report.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.