



www.turningpointclinic.org
2401 E. North Ave
Baltimore, MD 21213
410 675-2113

“The Way Back Starts Here”

February 21, 2021.

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

RE: Support of SB 646 Alcohol and Drug Trainee (ADT) Practice Through Telehealth

Turning Point Clinic urges a favorable opinion on SB 646 to allow Alcohol and Drug Trainee (ADT) counselors to continue to provide telehealth counselling beyond the current declared Public Health Emergency (PHE).

Turning Point Clinic is one of the largest Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) in Maryland providing treatment for over 1600 patients daily. We rely on Alcohol and Drug Trainees (ADTs) to provide counseling to more than 400 of our patients under supervision. The Covid-19 epidemic has forced us to provide the counseling portion of treatment via telehealth, which has enabled us to keep in touch with patients as social isolation measures are still in place in the State. The ability for ADTs to provide said counseling via telehealth has been fundamental to keep patients engaged in treatment and we wish to see this flexibility expanded beyond the Public Health Emergency.

SB 646 will significantly increase access and continuation of treatment by allowing ADT counselors to continue to provide telehealth counseling and we, therefore, urge a **favorable report for Senate Bill 646**.

Sincerely,

Rev. Milton E. Williams

President and CEO

2401 E. North Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21213
Phone: (410) 675-2113 - Fax: (410) 675-2117, 2118, 2707