



**House Health & Government Operations Committee
March 23, 2021**

**Senate Bill 520
Behavioral Health Services and Voluntary Placement Agreements –
Children and Young Adults - Report Modifications**

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports Senate Bill 520 – Behavioral Health Services and Voluntary Placement Agreements - Children and Young Adults - Report Modifications. This legislation will expand annual statewide data collection related to children’s behavioral health to include race and other demographic information, more details related to substance use disorder treatment needs, and information related to the availability of telehealth services.

Data already collected as a result of legislation passed in 2018, includes various aspects of services related to the mental health needs of children and young adults. The data identifies trends in use and gaps in services. As we have examined the available data, we have identified additional information that could help the State strengthen the behavioral health system for young people. A number of these data points are specific to substance use disorder services, something desperately needed for adolescents and young adults.

We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 520.

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.