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“The Way Back Starts Here.”

March 4, 2021.

Health and Government Operations Committee

RE: Support of HB 1287 Alcohol and Drug Trainee (ADT) Practice Through Telehealth

Turning Point Clinic urges a favorable opinion on HB 1287 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 to 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.

HB 1287 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 House Bill 1287.**

Sincerely,

Rev. Milton E. Williams

President and CEO