



**March 20, 2024**

**Senate Bill 403- Hospitals and Related Institutions- Residential Treatment Centers  
Accreditation  
House Health and Government Operations Committee**

## Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) is an association of private child caring organizations providing foster care, group homes, and other services through more than 200 programs across Maryland. The members of MARFY represent providers who serve Maryland's most vulnerable children who are in out of home placements due to abuse, neglect or severe mental health, and medical needs. We operate group homes, treatment foster care programs and independent living programs, primarily serving the foster care population as well as a juvenile services population.

MARFY writes to support Senate Bill 403 which proposes an important amendment to accreditation requirements for residential treatment centers within the state, with the intention of expanding the definition of “accredited residential treatment center” to include those accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) or the Council on Accreditation (COA). This legislative change aims to recognize the standards of these accrediting bodies in addition to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, thereby broadening the scope of recognized accreditation and potentially increasing the number of residential treatment centers that meet the state’s accreditation criteria.

Furthermore, the bill highlights a focused effort to ensure residential treatment centers adhere to high-quality standards, ensuring that individuals receiving treatment in these facilities are afforded the highest level of care. By including CARF and COA as accrediting organization, the bill acknowledges the diverse pathways through which residential treatment centers can demonstrate their commitment to excellence in service provision and patient care.

Overall, Senate Bill 403, would be a significant step towards enhancing the regulatory framework governing residential treatment centers, thereby improving the overall healthcare landscape within the state. **It is for these reasons we politely ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 403.**

**For more information call or email:**

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