



MATPAC

Maryland Addiction Treatment Policy Advocacy Coalition *The Voice for Choice in Addiction Treatment*

MATPAC has been formed due to growing concerns over the alarming lack of adequate addiction treatment resources in the state as well as recent policies and regulations the effect of which may marginalize, restrict, reduce or eliminate addiction treatment options for Maryland residents. The MATPAC statement of principles lays out our views on the issues of treatment and the individuals right to choose their path to recovery.

This document provides a statement of our core messages derived from the statement of principles. We urge you to go to our website, read the statement of principles and—if you agree—use our online form to sign it. (www.matpac.org)

Our Core Messages

- ☑ **CONSUMER CHOICE:** Consumers of treatment services—those suffering from addiction—have a right to choose the treatment approach they feel will best suit their needs.
- ☑ **GOVERNMENT ACTION SHOULD SUPPORT TREATMENT CHOICES:** The consideration of the consumer's right to choose should be a key factor driving government responses to the addiction crisis.
- ☑ **WE OPPOSE POLICIES THAT WILL REDUCE TREATMENT OPTIONS:** In Maryland, the demand for treatment services dwarfs the available, affordable provider resources. We cannot afford to adopt policies that will act to further reduce the number of available treatment programs and services in the state, in particular much-needed residential programs.
- ☑ **THERE IS NO 'ONE SIZE FITS ALL' APPROACH TO TREATMENT:** While many consider addiction to be a physical disease, many others consider addiction to be a behavioral, emotional and/or spiritual malady. Regardless of ones approach to this issue, now is not the time to forward policies that might shut the door on treatment options from which some might find success.

- ☑ **MAT¹ IS ONE TREATMENT OPTION, BUT NOT THE ONLY ONE:** While Medication-Assisted Treatment is of course one of the treatment options, the push to implement MAT must not be done in such a way as to marginalize, restrict, reduce or eliminate other addiction treatment options and pathways to recovery, including those programs and regimens that define success by helping their clients lead drug-free lives.

For more information: www.matpac.org <> contact@matpac.org

¹ Medication-Assisted Treatment