



New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
Champions for Transforming Lives and Health Systems

February 3, 2022

FY 2022

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The Honorable Joseph F. Vitale, Chair
Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
569 Rahway Ave.
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Testimony in Support of S783

Dear Chairman Vitale, Vice-Chair Madden and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of Senate Bill 783, which establishes an Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund, as well as a related Advisory Council for oversight of the fund, and ensures the funds received from opioid settlements will support substance use disorder prevention and treatment programs.

NJAMHAA represents 160 hospital-based and freestanding community mental health and substance use treatment providers throughout the state. Collectively, our member organizations help more than 500,000 children and adults with mental health and addiction issues annually and employ a significant segment of the state's workforce.

NJAMHAA supports the oversight of allocation of funds from the opioid settlement for substance use disorder prevention and treatment programs. We are pleased that the bill includes both prevention and anti-stigma campaigns as an appropriate use of the settlement funds, as well as efforts to reduce health disparities, support diversion from criminal justice system and expanded best practices.

I thank the Committee members for the opportunity to express support of this critical legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee. Please feel free to contact me at dwentz@njamhaa.org.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Wentz, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer