

**Position on SB1352:
Streamlining Licensure for Addiction Treatment Providers
June 8, 2026**

RCPA is a statewide association with more than 400 members, the majority of whom serve more than one million Pennsylvanians annually. RCPA service-provider members offer substance use disorder (SUD), mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, brain injury, medical and pediatric rehabilitation, and physical disabilities and aging services, across all settings and levels of care. RCPA's SUD treatment provider members comprise nearly 400 Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) licensed facilities.

RCPA strongly supports SB1352, which will meaningfully reduce some of the extreme administrative burden placed on the treatment provider system by myriad oversight and regulatory bodies.

SUD treatment providers are subject to multiple, individual annual audits and inspections – oftentimes overlapping, duplicative and conflicting – from multiple payers, Single County Authorities (SCAs), DDAP and, for those who are dually licensed to provide mental health services, the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS). SB1352 will relieve some of the annual auditing burden placed on these providers by creating a two-year DDAP license **only** for providers who are accredited by a national accrediting body and whose license is in good standing and has not been provisional for at least two consecutive years.

In developing this pathway to a two-year license, SB1352 recognizes providers who have proactively chosen to further demonstrate their commitment to the highest level of safety, quality and ongoing performance improvement. Providers who have earned accreditation from nationally recognized accrediting bodies, including Joint Commission and Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), have demonstrated that their operations **exceed** Pennsylvania's safety expectations. At the same time, the bill creates an incentive for providers who may not be accredited.

Nothing in SB1352 prevents DDAP from making announced or unannounced visits any time concerns are raised outside of the biennial licensing inspection this bill will enable. Any opposition to the bill based on concerns about not being able to physically visit or see a provider site in person annually, then, is without merit. Similarly, any suggestions that patient safety is at risk if providers **who have demonstrated their ability to hold themselves to higher safety standards through accreditation** are offered a two-year license are exaggerated.

Like the Pennsylvanians it treats, the SUD treatment provider system is in a vulnerable position today. Reimbursement rates are flat, costs to provide services are skyrocketing, and administrative burden is excessive, putting sustainability of the current system at risk. With significant changes coming to the Medicaid program in 2027, the system will be in an even more precarious position. Despite this challenging financial environment, the Shapiro Administration and the General Assembly have an opportunity to meaningfully demonstrate their support of providers by finding ways to help them operate more efficiently and effectively, which will also have a positive impact on the clients they serve. One way to do this in a fiscally responsible way is by enacting SB1352. RCPA urges the Administration to support this bill and the Legislature to pass it.