



3812 Chesley Ave
Baltimore MD 21206
(410)215-2619
contact@marylandrecoveryhomes.com

February 26, 2024

I am writing in support of bill HB0980 Opioid Restitution Advisory Council and Funds.

I know firsthand the importance of recovery support services in the local community, as I spent 24 years of my life consumed by the cycle of oblivion, pain, desperation, and hopelessness caused by the disease of addiction. My confidence and self-esteem were shattered, my family was devastated, and my will to live was gone. In 2019, I began my journey in recovery, thanks to the help of a non-profit organization, the Char Hope Foundation, in Harford County. My life, and the lives of many of my peers, was saved due to the long-term efforts of local community organizations. **Lasting change and healing does not occur during a brief hospital stay, it occurs in the weeks and months and years following. Recovery is a life-long process for us!**

Today, I am the Program Director of Maryland Recovery Homes in Baltimore City, operating 5 sober-living houses with 50 residents at any given time. Support provided by organizations such as the Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation is *essential* for the well-being and success of my residents. DCTF helps with an array of resources, such as housing funding, food, bus passes, clothing, peer support, and even Narcan training. Steady financing of these types of organizations will allow them to increase their impact on the local community, helping countless people recover from substance use disorder. I am living proof that these efforts are worthwhile. And for that, my family and I will be forever grateful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JKelley", written over a horizontal line.

Janesta Kelley, Program Director
Maryland Recovery Homes