



Maryland Alliance for Sensible Drug Policy

LIVED EXPERIENCE. REAL SOLUTIONS.

February 2, 2026

Senator Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill 0379 – Recovery Residence Grant Program - FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the committee:

I'm submitting this testimony in **strong support** of SB0379 on behalf of the Maryland Alliance for Sensible Drug Policy, a membership-based advocacy group led by people with lived or living experience with substance use.

This bill is straightforward and important: it **extends through fiscal year 2030** the requirement that the State budget include **\$500,000** for the **Recovery Residence Grant Program**. This is modest funding, but it can be the difference between someone having a stable place to live after treatment or returning to homelessness, instability, and substance use.

My lived experience: why recovery housing matters

In the fall of 2014, I was homeless in Baltimore City, living under the Jones Falls Expressway (JFX). I was unemployed, honestly unemployable, and I had bench warrants in two different jurisdictions. Most days, I panhandled to buy food, alcohol, and other drugs. I felt trapped, and I couldn't see a way out.

Then I got lucky. I received a scholarship to attend a quality evidence-based treatment program. But even in treatment, I was scared, because I knew what was waiting for me when I got out: a tent under a highway. And if I went back there, I knew what would happen next.

Then I got lucky again. A nonprofit paid for my first month in a recovery house when treatment ended. It wasn't a huge amount of money, but it gave me a stable landing pad long enough to start rebuilding. I got connected to recovery supports and quickly found a job. At the end of that first month, I had no problem paying my rent at the recovery house. Within six months, I was in my own apartment.