

March 1, 2024

SB866 – Health – Small Halfway houses and Small Private Group Homes – County Zoning
Senate Finance Committee

Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I write to you today as a grateful recovering addict and productive member of society. I would like to share a little bit about my experience with utilizing a recovery home as a tool to help guide me in my new way of life. For the better half of two decades, I struggled with the grips of addiction and all the turmoil that comes with it. I had my own home, a wife and children, and a Career during these times. I was in and out of treatment facilities multiple times throughout my life, but just could not seem to sustain a clean drug free life. It was not till I finally made the leap of utilizing a recovery house to help me put these tools I have learned into use. Being in a stable environment with people who have similar issues proved to be just what I needed to help me get distance between myself and the reasons I used substances to deal with everyday life. I personally think without places such as these homes I would never learn how to be a productive member of society.

If this bill passes, I believe the control of these necessary places will fall into the hands of people or policies that do not consider that every life matters, and that includes those recovering from addiction and alcoholism. It is critical to be able to be integrated within the community and have these places available because the war on drugs is not stopping anytime soon and our young people within our community are suffering at an alarming rate.

I genuinely believe Senate Bill 866 will poorly impact people's ability to recover in a safe and structured environment that has proven to be life altering in a positive manner. It will only further stimulate the stigma that has been put on our disease of addiction. And continue to increase the gap between recovering addicts and society as we see it.

I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 866. The thought of segregating those seeking recovery from the general population ensures that we are not a united community and can care less about those who so clearly deserve the same rights and chance of a peaceful and fruitful life.

Sincerely,

Edward Frey Jr.

Carrol County, MD.