

February 26, 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. My life has transformed from a person struggling in the grips of active addiction to a life of recovery with meaning and purpose. The first 18 months of my recovery were found in a recovery house, which introduced me to the foundation of my recovery. I was able to focus on maintaining abstinence from drugs and alcohol in a safe, stable, drug-free environment. This residence allowed me an opportunity of growth while providing an increased level of structure, accountability, and guidance I needed to integrate successfully back into society.

The day I moved into the recovery house, I had just completed a 28-day treatment program, I didn't have a place to call home, I was financially insecure, broken, hopeless and without a sense of direction or purpose. This house provided me with my first perception of stability as it offered me an affordable, structured, recovery-based place to call home while learning to balance life, responsibilities and successfully reintegrating back into society. I was able to gain employment and access local resources without worrying about means of transportation as everything was within walking distance. I was strongly encouraged to participate in a 12-step fellowship while receiving the support I needed to further promote my recovery. This is where I found hope, purpose, and the desire to live again. I built relationships with women, who shared similar struggles and where we encouraged each other's success, growth, and perseverance. These were the steppingstones I needed to transition to independent living. Today, I am able to maintain full-time employment, financial stability, find balance in life, parenthood and additional responsibilities while maintaining the key components that keep my recovery ongoing.

I strongly believe Senate Bill 866 will greatly impact the recovery community and unfortunately be truly detrimental to those trying to find stability and structure, especially for those in early recovery. I feel as though this would be an ultimate disservice to the community. It will create an increased number of obstacles for those trying to recover and will limit the availability of the residences that provide the support many people, like myself, so desperately need.

I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 866. The thought of segregating those in recovery is extremely unsettling. Countless lives have been positively impacted by the support and stability that these recovery residences provide. I encourage you to find unity within our communities and let our people recover.

Sincerely,

Cortney Golden  
Carroll County, MD.