



February, 29, 2024

Maryland General Assembly  
Senator Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Finance Committee  
RE: SB0751 - Opioid Restitution Advisory Council and Fund - Revisions

Greetings Chair Beidle and Committee Members,

My name is Jennifer Berterman, I am the owner/director of Halo Recovery Sober Living and I am in favor of SB0751.

I am also in recovery from substance abuse myself for 9 years now and know how important this bill is to our recovery community. I was fortunate to recover from active addiction right when fentanyl began hitting our streets of Baltimore and the surrounding counties. I have lost many people close to me, many beautiful, talented, and intelligent people who fell victim to this deadly disease and the opioid epidemic. I could have been one of those people had I not gotten out when I did.

In redemption mode, I began working in the field of addiction recovery to help others turn their lives around, overcome their addiction, and become contributing members of society again. My program is just one of many amazing programs in our area that helps these individuals treat their underlying issues, mend broken relationships with family, be present and loving parents again, obtain successful employment, and re-establish responsible independence. However, we are not able to provide this platform for these individuals who are trying to change their lives if we don't receive assistance from recovery support services that are offered from local non-profit organizations in our area.

This bill will help fund these organizations who work closely with our programs and support our clients, helping them achieve these goals and take their lives back. Ultimately, this bill will save many lives. The addiction recovery journey is rewarding when we have the proper support, but it can be very heartbreaking when we don't. The opioid epidemic consistently claims too many lives. These lives matter. They are daughters, sons, parents, siblings, friends, and most of all, they are humans who deserve a second chance at life. I hope you will produce a favorable report on this bill. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindly,  
Jennifer Berterman % Halo Recovery LLC  
#443-447-3599