



DR MASICA JORDAN LLC
JORDAN PEER RECOVERY
12138 Central Ave Suite 878
Mitchellville, MD 20721

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee,

I am honored to represent Jordan Peer Recovery today in support of Senate Bill 511, which proposes to increase the apprentice-to-journeyworker ratio. Jordan Peer Recovery is an organization deeply committed to training peer recovery specialists to support individuals recovering from serious mental health issues, substance use disorders, or co-occurring behavioral health concerns across Maryland.

Senate Bill 511 presents a critical opportunity for our organization and for the individuals we serve. The proposed increase in the apprentice-to-journeyworker ratio would significantly benefit Jordan Peer Recovery, allowing us to expand our capacity to train more peer recovery specialists. This expansion is urgently needed to address the growing demand for qualified professionals in the field of peer recovery support.

It's important to emphasize that a 3:1 ratio, as proposed in this bill, would not compromise the quality of education provided by Jordan Peer Recovery. On the contrary, it would enhance our ability to deliver comprehensive and effective training to aspiring peer recovery specialists. By allowing for more apprentices to work alongside experienced journeyworkers, we can provide a richer learning experience that encompasses both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

The need for peer recovery specialists in Maryland is greater than ever before. The state is facing a significant rise in individuals grappling with mental health issues, substance use disorders, and co-occurring behavioral health concerns. Peer recovery specialists play a vital role in supporting these individuals on their journey to recovery, offering empathy, understanding, and invaluable lived experience.

Expanding the apprentice-to-journeyworker ratio would enable Jordan Peer Recovery to train a larger number of competent and compassionate peer recovery specialists. These individuals will go on to serve their communities, offering hope and assistance to those in need of support. By investing in the training of peer recovery specialists, we are investing in the well-being of all Marylanders affected by mental health and substance use challenges.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support Senate Bill 511 and recognize the importance of increasing the apprentice-to-journeyworker ratio. By doing so, we can empower organizations like Jordan Peer Recovery to meet the growing demand for peer recovery support services and ensure that all Marylanders have access to the care and assistance they need on their path to recovery.

Thank you for considering our testimony and for your commitment to improving the lives of individuals and families across Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Masica Jordan Alston".

Dr. Masica Jordan Alston, CEO