



February 18, 2025

Senate Finance Committee & Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

**SB592 - Public Health - Health Care Quality Fund for Community-Based Behavioral Health Programs – Establishment**

POSITION: FAVORABLE

The Recovery Housing & Treatment Center Coalition of Maryland (RHTC) is honored to submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 592 (SB592), *Public Health – Health Care Quality Fund for Community-Based Behavioral Health Programs – Establishment*.

RHTC is a coalition of recovery residences, group homes, treatment centers, and other critical services that form the backbone of Maryland’s continuum of care. Our mission is to educate policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public on the importance of maintaining and expanding recovery facilities and services in our state. We work to ensure that individuals in recovery have access to high-quality, stable housing and treatment options that support their long-term well-being and reintegration into the community.

SB592 establishes the Health Care Quality Fund for Community-Based Behavioral Health Programs, a dedicated funding source designed to improve the quality of behavioral health care through training, grant awards, and demonstration projects. This initiative directly aligns with RHTC’s goals of fostering a robust and sustainable recovery ecosystem throughout Maryland.

The fund will provide financial support for programs that directly impact individuals in recovery, including evidence-based treatment, peer support, and wraparound services that are vital for sustained success. The establishment of a nonlapsing fund ensures continuous investment in behavioral health programs, protecting them from budgetary fluctuations and enabling long-term planning and program development.

Additionally, by allocating funds to training initiatives, SB592 will empower service providers with the latest best practices in behavioral health, ensuring high standards of care across all facilities.

As a coalition that supports a broad range of recovery services, we recognize that investment in community-based behavioral health programs strengthens the entire continuum of care, allowing individuals in recovery to receive comprehensive and coordinated support.



Expanding and improving behavioral health services benefits not just those in recovery but also their families, employers, and local communities. A well-funded recovery infrastructure reduces homelessness, criminal justice involvement, and hospitalizations, leading to cost savings and improved public health outcomes for the state.

For these reasons, RHTC strongly urges the General Assembly to pass SB592. The establishment of the Health Care Quality Fund for Community-Based Behavioral Health Programs is a significant step forward in ensuring that Maryland remains a leader in providing accessible, high-quality recovery support services.

We thank you for your time and consideration and look forward to collaborating on initiatives that advance the health and well-being of individuals in recovery across the state.

For more information call or email:

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