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Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I Rosenberg

Before the Health and Government Operations Committee

In Support of

House Bill 1136

**Community-Based Residential Facilities - Licensing Entities –
Provision of Licensing Criteria and Single Point of Contact**

Madam Chair and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

In most every community that we represent, residential facilities represent an important place where people can live and socialize in a neighborhood setting. These spaces can benefit their residents and the community where they are located. Licensing authorities are responsible for regulating these operations. While resident feedback is a crucial part of a successful operation, neighbors struggle to provide any feedback because access to licensing entities is unknown.

In the case of PHA Healthcare’s residential facilities for those recovering from opioid addiction, residents experienced putrid conditions incompatible with addiction recovery but struggled to find a single point of contact to solve their crisis. Residents died of overdoses in these facilities, but anyone seeking help from the building’s licensing entity were unable to find anyone willing to undertake their struggles. House Bill 722, which I introduced in response, requires an annual report on these facilities. It received a unanimous favorable report from this committee, as well as unanimous support on the House floor.

House Bill 1136 would simplify communications between neighbors of community-based facilities and the licensing authority responsible for providing a functional residential facility. This legislation would require a single point of contact to receive and address residents’ feedback regarding all issues related to a residential facility. Also, the licensing authority would be required to provide its licensing criteria to any legitimately interested party, such as a resident’s family member or the neighborhood association.

We must develop greater transparency of licensing authorities responsible for community-based residential facilities while also forming an easier path for residents and their loved ones, as well as the facilities' neighbors, to communicate their complaints and concerns.

I therefore urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1136.

March 5, 2025