



**Senate Finance Committee
March 31, 2026**

**House Bill 1249 - Certified Recovery Residences - Refusing Services to Individuals
Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment - Prohibition**

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 1249. Safe and stable housing is a basic need for all humans. For people in treatment for a substance use disorder and those in early recovery, housing is important both for meeting a basic need, and for supporting a person's recovery journey. Recovery residences provide a supportive environment, peer support and accountability, and structure intended to increase the chance of success. Maryland has attempted to tackle the challenge of ensuring recovery residences provide quality support by creating a certification process in 2017.

While there are standards associated with that certification, one glaring omission is the explicit prohibition on discrimination against people on medications for their opioid use disorders (MOUD). This committee has spent the last ten years learning about buprenorphine and methadone and how MOUD is the gold standard in treatment. Unfortunately, myths about these medications persist and the stigma about the medications and those who take them continue, even among those wanting to provide support.

Plainly, this discrimination violates federal law. But the recourse for people discriminated against is difficult. Complaints can be filed with federal or state agencies, but this is a lengthy and complicated task that few people can avail themselves of. Instead of putting the onus on consumers, who by definition are in the early stages of recover from an opioid use disorder, that state should be clear on the front end that to become a certified recovery residence, a provider must not discriminate. The intent is that this will deter this discrimination, and when recovery residences are inspected or audited, the state can cite a provider for noncompliance if people are required to cease or taper off of their life-saving medications.

We therefore urge a favorable report on House Bill 1249.