



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0878 – Health Facilities – Certified Recovery Residences – Unannounced Inspections – FAVORABLE**

**Bill Sponsor: Senator Attar**

**Committee: Finance**

**Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition**

**Person Submitting: Jessica Gorski, Executive Committee**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Gorski, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0878 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations representing more than 30,000 Marylanders across every legislative district. Our work is rooted in the belief that government should protect people’s lives, health, and dignity, especially for individuals in vulnerable situations, including those in recovery from substance use disorders.

SB0878 does exactly that.

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health to conduct at least 2 unannounced on-site inspections of each certified recovery residence each year to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements. It also requires the Department to provide notice of any deficiencies identified and to allow a one-month remediation period for the certified recovery residence to correct them. If the residence fails to take corrective action within that period, the Department may instruct the credentialing entity to revoke its certification.

These protections are not theoretical. They are urgently needed.

Certified recovery residences serve Marylanders who are working to rebuild their lives, stabilize their health, and maintain long-term recovery. When these residences fail to meet basic health, safety, or regulatory standards, residents face serious risks, including unsafe living conditions and inadequate support for their recovery. Routine, scheduled inspections alone are not always sufficient to identify problems that may only be visible during day-to-day operations. As stated in the House crossfile

testimony, “Certified recovery residences serve Marylanders who are working to rebuild their lives, stabilize their health, and maintain long-term recovery.”

By requiring regular unannounced inspections, SB0878 strengthens oversight and accountability while still providing a fair opportunity for remediation. The one-month correction period recognizes that some deficiencies can and should be fixed, but it also makes clear that ongoing noncompliance will have consequences, including potential revocation of certification. This balance of support and enforcement helps ensure that only residences that meet appropriate standards retain state-recognized certification.

This bill aligns squarely with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. It advances public safety, protects the health and dignity of residents in recovery, and ensures that state-recognized recovery residences meet the standards that Marylanders rightly expect. As the original HB0448 testimony notes, “No one seeking recovery should be placed in an unsafe, noncompliant, or unaccountable setting.”

No one seeking recovery should be placed in an unsafe, noncompliant, or unaccountable setting. SB0878 helps ensure that certified recovery residences truly support recovery, rather than undermine it.

Thank you for your time and consideration. **We respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report on SB0878.**