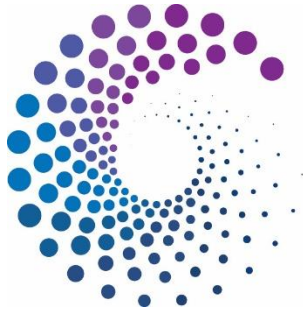




Maryland Alliance for Sensible Drug Policy

LIVED EXPERIENCE. REAL SOLUTIONS.

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: SB876 – Recovery Residences – Certification – Requirement – FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

I'm submitting this testimony in **strong support of SB876** on behalf of the Maryland Alliance for Sensible Drug Policy, a state-wide advocacy group led by people with lived or living experience with substance use.

Recovery houses provide a vital link between an individual's treatment and achieving long-term stability. At the same time, residents are uniquely vulnerable, especially when a home is poorly run or predatory. In our testimony regarding *SB878* (recovery residence inspection), we provided specific examples of the harms we have witnessed and why oversight matters. This bill addresses a related problem: **right now, certification is voluntary**, which means residents and families have no reliable way to know whether a home meets basic standards before moving in.

This bill requires that by January 1, 2027, a recovery house must be certified by a credentialing agency that has been approved by the Department of Health, prior to operating within the state of Maryland. Other states already require licensure or certification to operate recovery housing,ⁱ because this kind of clarity is important:

- **Safeguards the welfare of residents** by establishing minimum expectations for the for safety, transparency, and accountability.
- **Aids families and referring agencies** (e.g., treatment providers, re-entry, peers) in making informed decisions about placements.
- **Strengthens legitimate recovery houses** by eliminating the "race to the bottom" in which high-quality service providers compete with unregulated or irresponsible operators.

SB876 ensures that all recovery houses are subject to the same level of accountability, instead of leaving a voluntary loophole where the riskiest homes can simply avoid certification altogether.

Request

For these reasons, we respectfully ask the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB876**.

Respectfully submitted,

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ⁱ Arizona Revised Statutes § 36-2062. Licensure required; standards. Arizona State Legislature. <https://www.azleg.gov/ars/36/02062.htm>; Kentucky Revised Statutes § 222.502. Certification required for residences promoting recovery from substance use disorder. Kentucky Legislature. <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/Statutes/statute.aspx?id=55089>; Utah Code § 26B-2-117. Licensing residential treatment programs and recovery residences. Utah Legislature. <https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title26B/Chapter2/26B-2-S117.html>.