



**Senate Finance Committee
March 6, 2026**

**Senate Bill 878 - Health Facilities - Certified Recovery Residences –
Unannounced Inspections**

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports Senate Bill 878. 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, oversight and enforcement are necessary to prevent abuses. There are many examples of recovery residences that provide the structure and support to help their residents succeed. Too often, however, we hear stories about poor and damaging experiences people have had.

Requiring in-person inspections is good policy. People in early recovery are vulnerable to those who want to take advantage of them and the resources that they may have access to. It is clear that bad operators exist and take money without any intention of providing actual support. In addition, there are licensed treatment programs that illegally provide free housing while requiring participation in the company's treatment program.

It is widely believed that there is little enforcement of the laws and regulations governing certified programs. Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to conduct unannounced inspections could prevent illegal operations and deter bad actors from entering the field.

We therefore urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 878.