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HB1249

Certified Recovery Residences - Refusing Services to Individuals Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment - Prohibition

SUPPORT

Senate Finance Committee Hearing: March 31, 2026

I am a primary care physician that took care of 100 patients with heroin addiction in my private practice. I had a 95% success rate of sobriety in my practice. I am now retired.

My wife and I ran a recovery residence: a sober living facility (ASAM Level 2) in Greensboro, Maryland. We operated it from 2019 to 2021. In 2021, the building was sold to another company to become an ASAM Level 3 facility and is now currently owned by a large corporation that operates as a full rehab facility.

While we operated the facility, we allowed clients to use medication assisted therapy. The process to monitor and control the medications was straightforward and successful.

By allowing the clients to have access to MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment), our clients were more successful in maintaining sobriety. They were comfortable with the medication and the process of monitoring. This eliminated conflicts with prescribing doctors, clients and our managers.

I believe the evidence is clear that MAT is beneficial to improved outcomes measured by lasting sobriety and improved functioning in society. We certainly found that in our facility.

If you are serious about helping clients overcome their addiction, I would strongly recommend that you pass HB1249 so that clients with addiction can get the best, proven therapy to put their addiction behind them.

Thank you for your attention.

Gary Sprouse, MD