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Date: March 4, 2026

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 878- Health Facilities - Certified Recovery Residences - Unannounced Inspections

Position: Favorable

Gaudenzia offers this testimony in support of Senate Bill 878 (SB 878).

Gaudenzia was founded in 1968 by a conscientious group of community members who wanted to help themselves and each other overcome the challenges of drug and alcohol use. They soon learned that a collective group was much stronger than an individual, struggling alone. Over the next 55 years, Gaudenzia began serving those in need of treatment for substance use and co-occurring disorders, becoming one of the nation's first providers with programs designed to meet the needs of individuals with substance use or co-occurring disorders, including those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS or under criminal justice involvement. Today, Gaudenzia is one of the largest non-profit substance use and co-occurring disorders treatment providers in the northeast United States, serving Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and the Washington, D.C. areas. More information is available at www.gaudenzia.org.

A recovery residence provides alcohol-free and illicit-drug-free housing to individuals with substance-related disorders, addictive disorders, or co-occurring mental disorders. Recovery residences do not include clinical treatment services. (*Md. Code Ann., Health- Gen. §7.5-101*). A certified recovery residence is a recovery residence that has obtained a certificate of compliance from a nonprofit credentialing entity that develops professional certifications based on nationally recognized standards and best practices. (*Md. Code Ann., Health-Gen §19-2501*). Credentialing entities that administer the certification process for recovery residences must be approved by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). (*Id.*).

Quality recovery housing matters because where someone lives can either support recovery or quietly undermine it. After treatment, detox, or incarceration, people are often at their most vulnerable. Stable, recovery-supportive housing can be the difference between progress and relapse. Well regulated recovery housing protects residents from unsafe or exploitative housing practices and ensures consistent recovery support. Recovery housing that is well run improves community trust, and reduces stigma associated with substance use disorder.

SB 878 requires the Maryland Department of Health to conduct at least two unannounced on-site inspections of each certified recovery residence every year to ensure compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements. This additional layer of oversight keeps credentialing entities and recovery residences accountable for the quality of the services provided to individuals in recovery.

For the aforementioned reasons, Gaudenzia respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 878.

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