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[jamesplaceinc.org](http://jamesplaceinc.org)

committed to bringing support to those battling addiction

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**Senate Finance Committee  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

**HB 1249 Certified Recovery Residences – Refusing Services to Individuals Receiving Medication  
Assisted Treatment - Prohibition**

James' Place Inc. is a nonprofit organization providing scholarships for those suffering substance use disorders when transitioning from treatment into recovery housing.

James' Place strongly supports HB 1249. As with any disease, those suffering opioid use disorders have the right to choose the best path for not only immediate support during any detoxification process but for the longevity of continuing recovery. A person diagnosed with cancer, heart disease and other potentially fatal conditions often are given a five-year plan of recovery. As with these other conditions medications are lifesaving, life affirming to provide improved outcomes for those who suffer this disease. There can not be barriers to access for those choosing to live in a Maryland MCORR recovery residence while being prescribed MAT/MOUD.

For those who - with their treatment provider - choose medication assisted treatment/MOUD, they must have housing options that support these life -saving medications. As is fairly common knowledge there are three FDA approved medications – methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone (in the form of Vivitrol).

Stable housing is a minimum mandatory requirement for those on this recovery path. Maryland has a program to certify recovery houses – MCORR, Maryland Certification of Recovery Residences. MCORR has no inclusion regarding MAT/MOUD within its documentation. However, once MCORR certified, a recovery residence can request funding for residents (rent, dental care, etc.) by becoming approved for MDRN – Maryland Recovery Net. Under funding rules, MDRN approved residences are mandated to accept residents using any of the approved medications for opioid use disorders (OUD).

Based on the number of complaints I have received over the past many years, this is not enforced, There is a standard of care utilized by BHA from the National Alliance for Recovery Residences. (NARR). While the NARR standards are more focused on housing requirements, they do not speak to a treatment of care including MAT/MOUD.

This is an issue I've been working towards with BHA and many professional medical experts for over a decade here in Maryland. I've seen the benefits; I've seen families reunited. I've seen those who suffer then find their way out of the darkness of this disease. Tragically I've seen others turned away because of their MAT/MOUD use; some forced to reduce their dosage or stop taking the prescribed medication.

**SHATTER THE STIGMA.**  
a James' Place initiative

[shatterthestigma.com](http://shatterthestigma.com)

bringing truths, facts and a voice to the debilitating disease of addiction

Others told “we have no MAT beds available” (putting a cap on the number of people allowed to be in residence while using MAT/MOUD. Practicing medicine without a license cannot be tolerated. Simply put we know MAT/MOUD works; it saves lives. So, if it’s in the regulations for recovery residences, it must be enforced.

handed out information on how to register a complaint. We’ve submitted such complaints on behalf of individuals who are finding hope using this path forward. Now it’s time to put teeth in this proven medical option. We respect “many paths to recovery.” So when a person, along with their treatment provider agree to using MAT/MOUD, the Maryland system of certifying safe, stable housing must guarantee this medical decision. Please act now to establish enforcement of what is fact, what is known, what is needed to continuing saving lives.

James’ Place Inc. asks for a favorable report on HB 1249.

Barbara & Tom Allen

Jim’s mom, Bill & Tom’s sister, Amanda’s aunt