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House Health Committee

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

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 1249.

Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), including methadone and buprenorphine, are the most effective treatments available for opioid use disorder and are the only treatments shown to significantly reduce the risk of fatal overdose. Clinical evidence demonstrates that these medications help patients stabilize their lives, sustain recovery, and avoid relapse and overdose. Despite this evidence, many individuals seeking recovery housing encounter barriers because of stigma and misunderstanding about these medications. Some recovery residences refuse admission to individuals taking MOUD, limit the number of residents who can use these medications, or require individuals to taper off medication in order to remain in housing. These practices are not based on medical evidence and force individuals to choose between safe housing and following the treatment plan prescribed by their physician.

House Bill 1249 addresses this issue by ensuring that certified recovery residences cannot deny services to individuals solely because they are receiving prescribed MOUD. Recovery housing plays a critical role in helping people rebuild their lives, and it should support medical treatment recommended by a patient’s physician. National authorities, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the American Society of Addiction Medicine, and the National Academies of Sciences, emphasize that MOUD should be available in all treatment and recovery settings and should not be withheld without medical justification.

By preventing discrimination against individuals who follow their physician’s treatment plan, House Bill 1249 will help reduce stigma and ensure that people in recovery have access to both safe housing and lifesaving care. For these reasons, we request a favorable report on House Bill 1249.

For more information call:

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