

H.B. 1249: Certified Recovery Residences – Refusing Services to Individuals Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment – Prohibition  
House Health Committee  
March 11, 2026  
**Favorable**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1249: Certified Recovery Residences – Refusing Services to Individuals Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment – Prohibition. The Legal Action Center (LAC) is a non-profit law and policy organization that fights discrimination, builds health equity, and restores opportunity for people with substance use disorders and mental health conditions, people with arrest and conviction records, and people living with HIV/AIDS. LAC convenes the Maryland Parity Coalition and partners with many state and local organizations to ensure access to affordable and equitable substance use disorder and mental health care.

We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on H.B. 1249, which would ensure the certified recovery residences cannot discriminate against individuals who are taking medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD).

MOUD has long been recognized as the gold standard of treatment for opioid use disorders. These medications are proven to prevent overdose, reduce cravings, and maintain people in their recovery journeys.<sup>1</sup> Despite substantial progress in eliminating barriers to MOUD in recent years, including removing the X-waiver and COVID flexibilities for access to methadone,<sup>2</sup> recent data shows that fewer than one in five adults (19.4%) with an opioid use disorder receive MOUD.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to policy barriers, people who take MOUD also face stigma and discrimination,<sup>4</sup> including in recovery residences. Federal anti-discrimination laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Fair Housing Act (FHA) all make it illegal to deny someone access to recovery residences because they take MOUD.<sup>5</sup> Nonetheless, many recovery residences continue to restrict or prohibit the use of MOUD, preventing individuals who take these medications from accessing these public accommodations.<sup>6</sup>

By adopting H.B. 1249, Maryland will get the tools it needs to ensure quality and compliance with civil rights obligations and simultaneously improve access to and reduce the stigma around MOUD.

We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on H.B. 1249.

Thank you,

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<sup>1</sup> Wakeman SE, Larochelle MR, Ameli O, et al. “Comparative Effectiveness of Different Treatment Pathways for Opioid Use Disorder.” JAMA Netw Open. (2020): <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2760032>.

<sup>2</sup> Heather Saunders & Nirmita Panchal, “Addressing the Opioid Crisis: A look at the Evolving Landscape of Federal OUD Treatment Policies, KFF (July 11, 2023). <https://www.kff.org/other/issue-brief/addressing-the-opioid-crisis-a-look-at-the-evolving-landscape-of-federal-oud-treatment-policies/>.

<sup>3</sup> “NSDUH Data Spotlight: Medications for Opioid Use Disorder among Adults Who Had an Opioid Use Disorder,” SAMHSA (Sept. 2025), <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt56616/2024-nsduh-spotlight-moud.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> See “Cases Involving Discrimination based on Treatment with Medication for Opioid Use Disorder” Legal Action Center (May 1, 2025): <https://www.lac.org/assets/files/Cases-involving-denial-of-access-to-MOUD.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> See “Rights for individuals on Medication-Assisted Treatment” HHS Publication, SAMHSA (2009), [https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs\\_campaigns/medication\\_assisted/Know-Your-Rights-Brochure.pdf](https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/medication_assisted/Know-Your-Rights-Brochure.pdf); see also “Opioid Use Disorder & Health Care: Recovery Residences,” Legal Action Center (February 2022), <https://www.lac.org/assets/files/Recovery-Home-MOUD-Info-Sheet-Feb-2022.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Regina LaBelle et al., “Recovery Housing and Civil Rights Laws: Rights and Obligations Related to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder,” O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law(Dec. 2023), [https://oneill.law.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/ONL\\_BI20\\_OPIOD\\_Recovery\\_Housing\\_P5-1.pdf](https://oneill.law.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/ONL_BI20_OPIOD_Recovery_Housing_P5-1.pdf).