



TESTIMONY FOR HB0448 – Health Facilities – Certified Recovery Residences – Unannounced Inspections – FAVORABLE

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Rosenberg, Delegate Ruff, and Delegate Stinnett

Committee: Health

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Rebecca Turner

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Gorski, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0448 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations representing more than 30,000 Marylanders across every legislative district. Our work is rooted in the belief that government should protect people’s lives, health, and dignity—especially for individuals in vulnerable situations, including those in recovery from substance use disorders.

HB0448 does exactly that.

This bill 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 statutory and regulatory requirements. It also requires the Department to provide notice of any deficiencies identified and to allow a one-month remediation period for the certified recovery residence to correct them. If the residence fails to take corrective action, the Department may instruct the credentialing entity to revoke its certification.

These protections are not theoretical. They are urgently needed.

Certified recovery residences serve Marylanders who are working to rebuild their lives, stabilize their health, and maintain long-term recovery. When these residences fail to meet basic health, safety, or regulatory standards, residents face serious risks, ranging from unsafe living conditions to inadequate support for their recovery. Routine, scheduled inspections alone are not always sufficient to identify problems that may only be visible during day-to-day operations.

By requiring regular unannounced inspections, HB0448 strengthens oversight and accountability while still providing a fair opportunity for remediation. The one-month correction period recognizes that some deficiencies can and should be fixed, but it also makes clear that ongoing noncompliance will have consequences, including potential revocation of certification.

This bill aligns squarely with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. It advances public safety, protects the health and dignity of residents in recovery, and ensures that state-recognized recovery residences meet the standards that Marylanders rightly expect.

No one seeking recovery should be placed in an unsafe, noncompliant, or unaccountable setting. HB0448 helps ensure that certified recovery residences truly support recovery, rather than undermine it.

Thank you for your time and consideration. **We respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report on HB0448.**