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

committed to bringing support to those battling addiction

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**House Health 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 condition often is given a five-year plan of recovery. There are various phases of these conditions as with opioid use disorders.

For those who with their treatment provider choose medication assisted treatment, 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 mandatory requirement for being stabilized on this recovery path. Maryland has a program to certify recovery houses – MCORR, Maryland Certification of Recovery Residences. MCORR has no inclusion regarding MAT 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).

While this is apparently 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 foundational for housing, they do not speak to a full treatment of care such as MAT.

This is an issue I've been attempting to collaborate 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 find their way out of the darkness of this disease. Simply put we know MAT works; it saves lives. So, if it's in the regulations for recovery residences, it must be enforced.

Over the years I've worked with recovery residence managers, thousands in recovery, BHA units who over see the MCORR/MDRN efforts. I've seen residents ordered to reduce dosages, denied a bed because they use MAT, told that "the quota" of MAT beds was full. Over time we've

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

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

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 some 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, the Maryland system of certifying safe, stable housing must guarantee this medical decision. Please take action 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