



***National Alliance of Medication Assisted Recovery, Inc.,
Together we can make a difference! <https://namarecovery.org>***

Re: **HB 1249 – SUPPORT**

Certified Recovery Residences – Refusing Services to Individuals Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment – Prohibition. House Health Committee. Hearing: March 11, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Health Committee:

On behalf of NAMA-Recovery, we write in strong support of HB 1249, legislation that would prohibit certified recovery residences from refusing admission or services to individuals receiving prescribed medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), including methadone and buprenorphine.

NAMA-Recovery is a national advocacy organization representing individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) who rely on FDA-approved medications as part of their recovery. Our members are patients, families, healthcare providers, and advocates committed to advancing equitable access to evidence-based treatment. We work to eliminate discrimination against individuals receiving MOUD and to promote recovery grounded in science, dignity, and human rights.

Methadone and buprenorphine are the gold standard of care for OUD. Decades of rigorous research demonstrate that these medications reduce illicit opioid use, decrease transmission of infectious diseases, improve social functioning, and most importantly, significantly reduce the risk of fatal overdose. They are the only treatments proven to cut mortality in half or more for individuals with moderate to severe OUD. Denying access to housing based on the use of these life-saving medications undermines both public health and recovery outcomes.

Unfortunately, stigma and misinformation about MOUD persist within parts of the recovery community. False narratives — such as the belief that taking methadone or buprenorphine is “trading one addiction for another,” that physical dependence equals addiction, or that medication is incompatible with recovery — continue to result in discriminatory practices. These practices directly contradict national clinical guidelines and established standards from leading authorities in addiction medicine and public health.

Recovery residences play a vital role in supporting individuals as they rebuild their lives. Stable housing is a cornerstone of recovery. When certified residences refuse to admit individuals who are taking MOUD, limit the number of residents who may receive medication, impose arbitrary dose caps, or require tapering against medical advice, they create dangerous barriers to care. Such policies force individuals to choose between housing stability and adherence to evidence-based medical treatment — a choice no person in recovery should have to make.

HB 1249 addresses this inequity by ensuring that individuals prescribed MOUD by a licensed medical provider cannot be denied access to certified recovery housing. This legislation aligns housing policy with established medical standards and affirms that recovery pathways are diverse and individualized. It does not mandate medication use; rather, it protects the right of individuals to follow medically appropriate treatment plans without discrimination.

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From the perspective of NAMA-Recovery, this bill is fundamentally about civil rights, medical integrity, and saving lives. Individuals with OUD are protected under disability law, and access to prescribed treatment should not be a basis for exclusion. Maryland has made significant investments in addressing the opioid crisis. Ensuring that certified recovery residences do not perpetuate medication stigma is a necessary and logical next step.

We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1249. By passing this legislation, Maryland will affirm that recovery includes access to evidence-based treatment and that no individual should be denied safe housing because they are following their doctor's medical advice.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership in addressing the opioid crisis.

Because Treatment Works and Recovery is Possible,

Anita R Kennedy, Brenda Davis, Chuck Hilger, Patricia Williams, Kristina Padilla, Nathan Czerniak
Members of the Board
NAMA-Recovery
National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery

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