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Health and Government Operations
Committee
Chair
Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

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Joint Committee on Administrative,
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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg

Before the Health Committee

In Support of

House Bill 448

Health Facilities – Certified Recovery Residences – Unannounced Inspections

Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee:

After a scathing *New York Times/Baltimore Banner* joint investigation revealed consistent patient relapse and deaths in PHA Healthcare facilities, this committee and then the General Assembly passed House Bill 722/Ch. 697, 2025—Report on Oversight of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program and Recovery Residences. Pursuant to this legislation, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) delivered a report detailing the steps that the department is taking to improve the oversight of treatment programs.

House Bill 448 would simply codify and standardize one of the procedures, unannounced site inspections, that MDH has already been implementing as an effective tool for oversight.

At present, MDH prioritizes monitoring systems where there exists higher patient acuity or a history of compliance issues. This narrow focus on the most egregious of violators neglects the burden borne by communities across the state when certified recovery residences in their neighborhoods fall out of regulatory compliance and become daily nuisances for the public. Additionally, it would be irresponsible for Maryland to ignore even minor backsliding taking place within certified recovery residences, This would inevitably invite more, historically deadly, violations.

House Bill 448's necessity is also evident in the fact that MDH acknowledged in the aforementioned report its inability to unilaterally implement new regulations to COMAR 10.63 due to the concerns of the organizations that operate the recovery residences. Thus, it is necessary

for the Maryland General Assembly to step in to find a balance between the well-founded worries of these organizations and the need to ensure that these facilities operate in a way that affords the Marylanders who live there both dignity and safety. House Bill 448 strikes this balance in a restrained and measured way.

In the interests of aiding our fellow Marylanders on their journey to escape the grips of addiction, I urge a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 448.

February 11th, 2026