

City of Baltimore

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Councilwoman Phylcia R. L. Porter,

District 10

CHAIR: Public Health and Environment

MEMBER:

Labor and Workforce

Public Safety

Transportation and Land Use

March 9, 2026

Bill Title: HB1249: Certified Recovery Residences - Refusing Services to Individuals Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment - Prohibition

Position: Favorable

To: Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, Health Committee

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1249, which aims to establish a new requirement to be included in Maryland's certification standards for recovery homes in order to better serve individuals with substance use disorders (SUD) who are receiving medication-assisted treatment. This bill ensures that there is a formal statewide system to certify, inspect, and hold recovery residences accountable, including enforcing the new rule that residents receiving medication-assisted treatment cannot be denied housing or forced to stop treatment.

At its core, this bill affirms a basic public health principle: individuals working toward recovery from opioid use disorder should not be denied housing or support simply because they are following a doctor-prescribed treatment plan.

Medication-assisted treatment is an evidence-based approach to treating opioid use disorder. Medications like buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone help stabilize individuals, reduce cravings, and lower the risk of overdose. Yet, despite this evidence, individuals receiving medication-assisted treatment are still frequently denied access to recovery residences or pressured to discontinue their medication in order to remain in housing. As Chair of Baltimore City's Public Health and Environment Committee, I have seen how these practices create dangerous barriers to recovery and place individuals at higher risk of relapse, overdose, and homelessness.

HB1249 addresses that gap and affirms that recovery should not require individuals to choose between stable housing and medically appropriate treatment. It also strengthens Baltimore's ongoing efforts to combat the opioid crisis by addressing systemic barriers and advancing harm reduction strategies and policies that support long-term recovery.

I respectfully urge the favorable passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phylcia R. L. Porter".

Councilwoman Phylcia Porter, MPH, MSL

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Chair, Public Health and Environment Committee

Baltimore City Council - District 10