



HB 1249 SUPPORT

Certified Recovery Residences - Refusing Services to Individuals Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment - Prohibition

Health Committee

Hearing: March 11, 2026

On behalf of Stop Stigma Now (SSN), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating stigma and advancing evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD), we write in strong support of HB 1249 which would require certified recovery residences to allow access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD).

This legislation is both sound public policy and a matter of human dignity. MOUD is Lifesaving, and Evidence-Based. Medications for opioid use disorder, including methadone, buprenorphine, and extended-release naltrexone are the gold standard of care. They are endorsed by the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Robust research demonstrates that MOUD reduces mortality by more than half, improves long-term recovery outcomes, and significantly decreases overdose risk.

Yet despite this clear evidence, individuals receiving these medications are often told implicitly or explicitly that they are "not truly in recovery." Some are denied admission to recovery housing altogether. Others feel pressured to taper off medically necessary treatment to secure a safe place to live. When housing access depends on abandoning lifesaving medication, individuals are forced into an impossible choice between shelter and survival.

Recovery Housing Must Align with Medical and Legal Standards. Recovery residences play an important supportive role in the continuum of care. However, support services cannot override established medical standards. Treatment decisions must remain between patients and their licensed medical providers.

Behind every policy debate is a person, a mother returning home to her children, a veteran rebuilding his life, a young adult striving to regain stability. For many, recovery housing represents the bridge between treatment and independent living. This legislation represents alignment among medicine, public health, and human rights.

This bill affirms three fundamental principles:

- Evidence-based treatment should not disqualify someone from recovery housing.
- Individuals receiving MOUD Civil have the right to choose their own path to recovery.
- Recovery policy must be guided by science, compassion and equity.

We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report and ensure that certified recovery residences in Maryland support lifesaving treatment. Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Maria Pasceri, and Stephanie Campbell,
Co-Presidents, Stop Stigma Now