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House Health Committee

March 11, 2026

House Bill 1249

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

Support

The Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence strongly supports House Bill 1249. Accessible safe and stable housing is a basic need for all humans. Recovery residences play a critical role in aiding in a person's recovery journey. A good recovery residence will offer a supportive environment, peer support and accountability, and the structure which greatly increases the chance of a person's success. In the Maryland Certification of Recovery Residences Program (MCORR), there is no expectation that recovery residences allow persons in need of housing be allowed to enter the housing program while on medications for opioid use disorders (MOUD), methadone and/or buprenorphine, lifesaving medications that are often provided for people with opioid use disorder.

Without the explicit inclusion of a person's right to be on medications that treat opioid use disorders, decisions made between a medical provider and the person, there are too many instances of recovery residences not allowing people on medications for MOUD to enter the residence. Despite years of education and studies showing the critical importance of these medications for saving lives, myths about these medications persist and the stigma about the medications and those who take them continue. Recovery residences would never be allowed to deny access to someone because they were on a blood pressure or cholesterol lowering medication. Yet we continue to see this discrimination happen to people on MOUD.

Prohibiting access to MOUD may violate federal laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act, but enforcement has been absent and does not deter this type of discrimination. The state should be clear on the front end that to become a certified recovery residence, a provider must not discriminate. The intent is that this will deter this discrimination, and when recovery residences are inspected or audited, the state can cite a provider for noncompliance if people are required to cease or taper off their life-saving medications.

We urge a favorable report on House Bill 1249.

MATOD members include community and hospital based Opioid Treatment Programs, local Health Departments, local Addiction and Behavioral Health Authorities and Maryland organizations that support evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment. MATOD members include thousands of highly trained and dedicated addiction counselors, clinical social workers, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, peer recovery specialists and dedicated staff who work every day to save and transform lives.

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