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jamesplaceinc.org

committed to bringing support to those battling addiction

**Senate Finance Committee
February 28, 2023**

**Senate Bill 558
Recovery Residence Grant Program – Establishment
Support**

James' Place Inc. supports Senate Bill 558 with amendments. Housing is a basic human need. We exist because of the deaths of four family members to substance use disorders. Therefore we invest by providing scholarships for those leaving treatment or incarceration and moving into recovery houses. We provide these investments in Maryland and Virginia predominately.

Being closely tied into recovery housing across jurisdictions and state lines, we understand and support the need to offer more than what can be financially sustained by relying on rental income only. These are not merely boarding houses – these are homes of recovery where the cost of operations, services and programs (non-clinical) extend beyond the bare minimum of a roof overhead.

With this in mind James' Place Inc. supports the grant program while requesting removal on Page 3 - lines 1 through 27. These items should remain outside the bill itself.

The Fiscal Note brings up a couple of points:

- While reducing the MDH staffing recommendation from three to one person is valid for this grant program, the overall program of certification for recovery houses in Maryland is grossly under managed and perhaps under functioning.
- Working with recovery house programs in SAMSHA Region 3 (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, District of Columbia) plus West Virginia, Maryland's recovery housing certification program is embarrassing. Oversight of existing certified houses is poor; responsiveness to inquiries for support by existing houses is poor; clarification of existing regulations is poor.
- Overall, the Department should follow through with enhancing, refining and update it's current program for the certification of recovery housing (non-clinical).

James' Place Inc. remains committed to collaborating as desired towards the improvement of Maryland's program for recovery housing.

James' Place Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.



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bringing truths, facts and a voice to the debilitating disease of addiction