



## **SENATE BILL 558- RECOVERY RESIDENCE GRANT PROGRAM FAVORABLE**

### ***Background:***

Living In Recovery (LIR) has been serving Howard County since 2011, operating as a National Association of Recovery Residences (NARR) Level II (Monitored) recovery residence for men and women seeking recovery from alcohol and/or drug addiction. LIR currently operates three full-time residences with a total of 17 beds. The organization started as a 100% volunteer-run nonprofit, and it now has a group of dedicated volunteers and a small paid staff managing a \$360,000 annual budget. Only 40% of the budget is supported through rent paid by residents, while the balance comes from various fundraising activities.

LIR does not provide substance abuse treatment. Residents have already completed treatment or are currently enrolled in outpatient treatment services. Residents must remain free of drugs and alcohol and maintain an active recovery program. All residents are subject to random urinalysis and breathalyzer testing.

Since its inception, LIR has supported over 350 residents, 65% of whom have remained clean and sober while in our program. Recovery housing has proved to be a key component in the continuum of care for those with a substance use disorder (SUD) who are attempting to reclaim their lives. LIR provides recovery support, structure, and accountability in a safe, drug and alcohol-free environment, which is an essential part of restoring their life and again becoming a participating member of the community.

### ***Funding Need:***

In 2019, Senator Guy Guzzone championed \$75,000.00 via the SB191 bond bill for Living in Recovery. In 2022, an additional \$250,00 was funded through the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan (MCCBL). These funds were specifically identified for expansion through the creation of more beds. LIR is seeking funds to support our expansion efforts by having the internal resources to support the growth and expansion of our program. We believe it is critical to maintain the highest level of care, continued service, and support that residents and their families have come to rely on while at LIR. LIR is seeking operational funding to add staff and allow for expansion.

### ***Benefits to Individuals:***

LIR is a state-certified recovery residence in Howard County, MD. The certifying entity for the Maryland Department of Health Behavioral Health Administration is the Maryland Certification of Recovery Residences (MCORR). Having this certification allows residents, families, and other



stakeholders to know that LIR is operating at the highest standards. Being a MCOORR Certified Recovery Residence provides access to additional funds for individuals and their families for rent and personal care needs. Currently, we are limited to offering this to 17 individuals. With increased capacity, LIR would have the opportunity to offer safe and affordable recovery housing to more people seeking help. The nation continues to experience the highest overdose numbers in history. As we emerge from COVID, there is an urgent need for housing as so many people are seeking help for alcohol, drug, and mental health related concerns.

***Benefits to the State:***

Recovery residences help stop the cycle of addiction-rehab-relapse and increase the chance for sustained recovery. It is part of the recovery continuum that is specifically designed to address a recovering person's need for a safe and healthy living environment while supplying the requisite recovery and peer support. Additionally, it's critical that people new in recovery develop accountability and a network of supportive peers.

On average, LIR residents live in one of our recovery residences for 7 to 9 months. Then, they transition to independent sober living with employment. At least 65% of all LIR residents are clean and sober and employed when they transition to independent living .

We know that individuals who go through drug/alcohol rehabilitation treatment programs followed by residing in recovery housing are more likely to achieve long-term sobriety. Our statistics indicate that residents departing LIR have a very high rate of sustainable recovery, which reduces their dependency on state resources. Ultimately, the positive impact is not limited to residents but extends to family, friends, employers, co-workers, and the community in general that no longer needs to hospitalize, arrest, or incarcerate them. As a result, residents can develop resilient family relationships and positively contribute to the community.

Living in Recovery is expertly poised to support Marylanders and their families by providing clean, comprehensive, safe, structured, and affordable sober living.

We respectfully request the Committee give the bill a favorable vote. Thank you.

Roger Hoff