



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 558 - Recovery Residence Grant Program – Establishment – Letter of Support as Amended

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for Senate Bill (SB) 558 –Recovery Residence Grant Program – Establishment. As amended, SB 558 establishes a recovery residence grant program (Program) for Level I, Level II, and Level III recovery residences certified by MDH’s Behavioral Health Administration. In addition, SB 558 mandates an annual appropriation of \$500,000 for fiscal years 2024 through 2027.

MDH appreciates the bill sponsors’ and Senate Committee’s incorporation of MDH’s proposed amendments. Through these amendments, the Program will be able to serve more recovery residences and provide for greater flexibility in defining requirements to receive funding. Recovery residences are critical to providing safe, recovery-oriented housing for individuals seeking care.

MDH will work closely with the Maryland Department of Budget and Management to determine a sufficient level of funding to meet the intent of this legislation. MDH understands that an appropriation is currently included in the fiscal year 2024 budget, as passed by the Senate, to implement this grant program.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at megan.peters@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary