



## **HB 681 – Recovery Residence Grant Program – Establishment**

**Committee: Health and Government Operations**

**Date: March 7, 2023**

**POSITION: Support with Amendment**

**The Maryland Coalition of Families:** Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) helps families who care for a loved one with behavioral health needs. Using personal experience, our staff provide one-to-one peer support and navigation services to family members with a child, youth or adult with a mental health, substance use or gambling challenge.

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MCF is pleased to submit this testimony in support of HB 681 with amendment.

Recovery residences are an important part of the continuum of care for people in early recovery. They deliver peer support and structured living, and greatly increase an individual's odds of successfully recovering from a substance use disorder.

Research shows that, compared to returning home immediately after residential treatment, living in a recovery residence brings about higher abstinence rates, greater rates of employment and lower rates of criminal recidivism.

There is a dire need for quality recovery residences. We've heard far too many stories about residences that are fly-by-night operations. They lack sufficient oversight and they fail to follow best practices. In one instance, we learned of the owner of a recovery residence who was selling opioids to his residents. He was convicted of his crime.

In order to offer quality programs, recovery residences need sufficient funds. HB 681 would provide needed dollars for recovery residences to stay financially afloat while delivering high-quality services that follow best practices. Therefore we support the establishment of a grant program.

We believe, however, that the requirements for accessing grant dollars should be stipulated in regulation, not in statute.

Therefore we urge a favorable report on HB 681 with amendment.

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