



**State Representative Brian Baldridge
District 90**

**HB 632 – Sponsor Testimony
House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee**

Chair Carruthers, Vice Chair Pavliga, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 632- legislation focused on addiction recovery housing.

I'm proud to represent the 90th Ohio House District. In the heart of my district we have Portsmouth, Ohio. Unfortunately, Portsmouth was one of this nation's cities hit the hardest by the opiate crisis. The work that has been done in Portsmouth to help folks in recovery is truly admirable. However, Scioto County is a rural Appalachian County that faces healthcare challenges that are important to note.

Constituents from Portsmouth have contacted my office with concerns about recovery housing facilities in and around the city. A majority of the concerns surround the standard of care that these facilities provide. House Bill 632 aims to address these concerns by establishing certification from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services over these facilities. The bill states that no provider of recovery housing shall be eligible to receive any state funds unless certified by one or more of the following: OMHAS, the national alliance for recovery residences; Oxford House and the commission on accreditation of rehabilitation facilities. It is important to note that this part of House Bill 632 would apply to the ADAMH board region of Adams, Scioto and Lawrence County.

House Bill 632 is focused on making sure that we have a firm and fair review of recovery housing facilities that are assisting those in recovery. This legislation would prohibit referrals from community addiction services providers unless the housing provider was certified. Lastly, this bill would have OMHAS establish a statewide registry to ensure that we have proper oversight over these providers throughout our state.

Prior to this hearing, I have made it a point to meet with interested parties who understand the issues at hand. Our office has had multiple conversations with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Ohio Council. We have also had positive talks with Ohio Recovery Housing as well. I look forward to further collaboration as the bill progresses.

Those in recovery are a vulnerable population who are trying their best to get their lives in order. We must ensure that the recovery houses that these folks are going to are reputable, safe and accredited. House Bill 632 is a step in the right direction as we tackle the opiate crisis here in this state.