



Representative Justin Pizzulli,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Chris Ross; I am the Community Outreach Coordinator here at Sunrise Recovery. Sunrise Recovery strongly believes in having safe, nurturing places where the person going through the process of recovery feels comforted.

I am writing to express our profound appreciation of House Bill 58, which will establish a Certificate of Need (CON) program for recovery housing homes. Not only is this bill timely; it is necessary.

In recent years, we have witnessed a concerning trend: the rise of "recovery housing" centers that do not live up to appropriate standards. These facilities are more concerned with their bottom line than with helping people, and they end up with overcrowding that does actually thwart the recovery process. These conditions can make it all the more difficult for individuals who are attempting to reintegrate into society, gain employment, and re-knit family bonds.

It is through lack of regulation that some of these programs are able to target vulnerable groups for financial exploitation. Not only does this sully the good name of other genuine recovery programs but also brings grave risk to residents' safety. Implementing a CON program, as advocated for in HB58, would ensure recovery home facilities meet necessary standards, thus ensuring the dignity and health of those we claim to assist.

Moreover, proper regulation can prevent the placing of individuals in substandard living conditions under the guise of support. By defining proper operational standards, we are able to distinguish between true providers and those operating without a genuine concern for recovery outcomes.

At Sunrise Recovery, we have witnessed firsthand the redemptive power of good recovery housing. Our residents have achieved some incredible milestones, ranging from purposeful employment to family reunification. These are founded on a culture of safety, care, and customized support—principles that HB58 seeks to make universal for all Ohio recovery housing.

I am confident that I speak for the ENTIRE staff here in stating that we strongly support House Bill 58 and are ready to work in any manner necessary to ensure passage and implementation.

Thank you for your dedication to enhancing recovery housing standards and for advancing the rights and best interests of those journeying toward recovery.

Chris Ross

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