

Written Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 58

Submitted by: Jordan McLane, LSW, LCDCC III-GAMB, OSPSA

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Date: April 19, 2025

Resident of Hamilton County, Cincinnati, Ohio

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and Members of the House Community Revitalization Committee:

My name is Jordan McLane, and I respectfully submit this written testimony in opposition to House Bill 58. I am a Licensed Social Worker, a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor III with Gambling Designation, an OSPSA-certified provider, and a Master of Social Work candidate at The Ohio State University. I am also a person in recovery who has lived the experience this bill discusses—and one who has spent years advocating for ethical, peer-led recovery housing in Hamilton County.

I have personally worked to expose and report fraud, unethical clinical mandates, and exploitative Medicaid practices. I have stood with clients harmed by coercive, predatory housing systems that misuse treatment dollars and ignore resident safety. I support accountability and oversight. I do not support HB 58.

HB 58 introduces a Certificate of Need (CON) requirement for recovery housing, mandating state approval for operations such as increasing beds, relocating, or making significant improvements. It grants authority to local ADAMHS boards for inspections and investigations and establishes civil penalties for providers operating outside the CON structure. These regulatory measures are being applied to non-clinical housing that was never intended to function as a medical or Medicaid-based program.

The bill aims to address “bad actors.” Yet, in testimony supporting this bill, discussions shifted from fraud prevention to concerns about “crime in our communities” and apprehension over recovery homes being “next door.” Such statements not only stigmatize recovery housing but also the individuals residing there. When “crime” is mentioned in this context, it often implies “addict.” That includes me. That’s who is being referenced.

If the state shuts down unethical operators (which is necessary) and simultaneously imposes expensive, bureaucratic barriers on ethical providers, we must ask—where will people go?

Where is the solution?

There is no funding in this bill. No grants for ethical homes. No infrastructure support. No capacity expansion. HB 58 proposes only restrictions—not resources. It creates a system of

paperwork and penalties but offers no path to help providers meet community needs. Despite the real and pressing housing shortage, HB 58 does not create more homes—it threatens to eliminate the ones we have.

As someone who could not safely return home after treatment, I know how vital recovery housing is. I did not need clinical services—I needed support, structure, and a safe place to rebuild. My recovery housing program wasn't billing Medicaid. It wasn't offering unlicensed treatment. It was offering hope, and it worked. Today, I'm a wife, a mother, a professional, and a graduate student. I am proof that recovery housing works—when it's allowed to exist. According to the Ohio Department of Health, 4,452 Ohioans died from unintentional drug overdoses in 2023. We face a significant recovery crisis—and HB 58 would exacerbate it. We have fewer than 3,000 recovery housing beds statewide, with demand far exceeding this number.

Furthermore, House Bill 33, Ohio's biennial budget legislation, included provisions aimed at improving recovery housing oversight and support, effective as of January 1, 2025. We have not yet had the opportunity to assess the impact of these measures. Introducing HB 58 at this juncture is premature and undermines the potential progress from HB 33.

The truth is: fraud exists, but HB 58 does not solve it. It raises valid concerns but chooses an ineffective and harmful approach. If we are genuinely concerned with public safety, quality housing, and long-term recovery, we must prioritize investment, equity, and evidence-based policy—not fear, stigma, or exclusion.

I urge this committee: do not confuse control with care. Do not confuse punishment with policy. Recovery housing saves lives. Please vote no on HB 58.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. McLane', with a stylized, cursive script.

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References

- Ohio Department of Health. (2024). *Unintentional Drug Overdose Death Data: 2023 Summary*.
- Ohio Recovery Housing. (2024). *Estimated Recovery Housing Bed Capacity, Statewide*.
- Ohio Legislature. (2023). *House Bill 33 | 135th General Assembly*. Retrieved from <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb33>