



Chair Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding House Bill (HB) 58 on behalf of Lighthouse Behavioral Health Solutions. My name is Alisha Rinehart, and I am Lighthouse's Chief Clinical Officer. In my role, I oversee Lighthouse's behavioral health treatment program and recovery housing program.

Lighthouse is Ohio's largest recovery housing operator. Currently, we house 680 residents in 143 recovery homes in 8 Ohio counties. All of Lighthouse's recovery homes are certified by Ohio Recovery Housing (ORH), many having become certified before the legislature required it in the last state operating budget. Lighthouse began to certify our homes in 2018 when Governor DeWine asked us to step in and help run a housing program that was closing. ORH certification means that Lighthouse's recovery homes have met rigorous quality and safety standards to ensure residents live in healthy and recovery-focused environments.

We know from experience that safe and available recovery housing is necessary to residents' recovery journeys, and that stable housing plays a pivotal role in residents' ability to stay sober. We are concerned that HB 58, as drafted, will result in less access to recovery housing and, therefore, less successful recovery outcomes.

HB 58 requires Alcohol, Drug, Addiction and Mental Health (or ADAMH) Boards in Ohio's counties to annually inspect recovery homes and to investigate complaints against recovery homes. First, Ohio law describes the powers and duties of ADAMH Boards as serving "as the community addiction and mental health planning agency for the county or counties under its jurisdiction". (ORC 340.03(A)(1)). The statutory description of ADAMH Board responsibilities does not grant to ADAMH Boards the authority to regulate substance use treatment providers or recovery homes.

Ohio law does, however, vest within the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) authority to monitor the operation of recovery homes through rigorous credentialing and oversight processes. Under Ohio law, ORH is an entity permitted to credential recovery homes; its certification process is rigorous and based on nationally recognized standards and best practices. Though it has only been operational for a few months (since January 2025), the current system is working. ORH understands the unique role recovery homes play in Ohio's behavioral health landscape and is the regulatory body most capable of partnering with recovery homes to ensure individuals across Ohio have

access to safe and stable housing to help ensure success in recovery. We commend the job ORH has done as a partner of Ohio's recovery homes.

Additionally, HB 58 requires recovery homes to obtain a certificate of need (CON) from OMHAS whenever a recovery home wants to carry out a reviewable activity, including establishing a new recovery home; buying or acquiring a recovery home; renovating a recovery home; or increasing the number of beds at a recovery home.

The National Conference of State Legislatures defines certificate of need laws as "state regulatory mechanisms for approving major capital expenditures and projects for certain health care facilities". (<https://www.ncsl.org/health/certificate-of-need-state-laws>). Ohio uses the CON process to regulate expansion of long-term care facilities. Recovery residences are not health care facilities and are not institutions; they are private homes not regulated by health care laws but, rather, by landlord tenant laws.

We understand that HB 58 is a legislative response to the rapid and perhaps unchecked proliferation of recovery residences in certain parts of the state, which has strained resources and resulted in an influx of individuals with substance use disorder in some Ohio communities.

Lighthouse's operations do not strain local resources or threaten communities. We, like many recovery housing operators throughout the State, work diligently to establish partnerships with community partners. Our recovery homes are the reason individuals are not sleeping on the street. In our recovery homes, individuals are accepted into a recovery community. They build friendships, share meals, relearn social skills, and attend community events so that their eventual transition back into Ohio's communities is successful. They learn that, through housing, recovery is possible and sustainable.

To date, Lighthouse has housed over 10,000 residents in recovery across Ohio in our seven years of operation. HB 58 would drastically reduce the ability of recovery housing operators to serve more Ohio communities in dire need of housing and recovery supports. As such, Lighthouse respectfully opposes HB 58 in its entirety.

Chair Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today as an advocate for those in recovery dependent on safe and stable housing. I am available for any questions you may have.

Alisha Rinehart