

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: May 6th, 2025

Name: Reba McCray

Are you representing: Yourself ☐ Organization ☒

Organization (If Applicable): Arc Recovery Services

Position/Title: Executive Director

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☒ No ☐

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): H.B. 58

Specific Issue: _____

Are you testifying as: a Proponent ☐ Opponent ☒ Interested Party ☐

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☒ No ☐

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 5 min

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

See Attached.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Testimony for House Bill 58 Brief Statement

The testimony, of Reba McCray, President of the Ohio Recovery Housing Association and the Executive Director of ARC Recovery Services is presented to the House Community Revitalization Committee in support of improving recovery housing quality in Ohio. Ohio Recovery Housing—a statewide non-profit dedicated to ensuring safe, supportive, and high-quality recovery housing for individuals recovering from alcohol and drug addiction.

Recovery Housing is defined as an alcohol- and drug-free residence providing peer support and access to treatment services. Importantly, recovery housing is not a treatment center; it is a home where residents can maintain recovery whether they're in or out of formal treatment. While some treatment programs may use Medicaid revenues to help pay for housing, Medicaid itself does not cover housing.

Ohio Recovery Housing has a statewide oversight system established under House Bill 33 (effective January 2025), which requires recovery homes to be credentialed and registered with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. This process includes a rigorous, three-step certification review based on nationally recognized standards, ensuring compliance with local building and zoning codes. Statistics on certification applications and complaint reviews are provided to demonstrate the system's current effectiveness and commitment to quality.

As a Statewide association we have strong concerns regarding House Bill 58 as currently drafted. We believe that the bill would disrupt the well-established oversight framework by shifting complaint investigations to local boards—entities that would lack the necessary expertise and authority to remove credentials. This decentralization could lead to duplicative, inconsistent, and inefficient processes, increased administrative burdens, and higher costs (potentially affecting residents through fee increases). Furthermore, the proposed certificate-of-need program is unsuitable for recovery housing, as it borrows models from nursing facilities.

In conclusion, while acknowledging the good intentions behind HB 58, we urge lawmakers to build upon and improve the existing oversight system rather than dismantling progress. We recommend enhancements such as introducing criminal penalties for non-compliance and engaging in a serious discussion about sustainable funding to ensure that quality recovery housing remains accessible and effective for Ohioans in need.



Testimony Opposing House Bill 58

Presented by: Reba McCray

On behalf of: Ohio Recovery Housing and ARC Recovery Services

Date: May 6th, 2025

Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill 58. My name is Reba McCray, and I am here today representing Ohio Recovery Housing (ORH) and ARC Recovery Services and other ORH Board Members, who strongly oppose this bill's attempt to dismantle the progress we have made through Senate Bill 33, which took effect in January 2025.

For the past decade, ORH, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, has worked tirelessly to establish quality standards, certification measures, and assurances for recovery housing in our state. These evidence-based policies ensure individuals seeking recovery housing have access to safe, effective environments that foster their long-term success. Undoing these efforts through HB 58 would not only erode established quality assurances but also introduce uncertainty and inconsistency into the recovery housing landscape.

Recovery housing plays a critical role in supporting individuals as they transition from addiction treatment to independent living. By establishing clear certification and oversight processes, Senate Bill 33 ensured that recovery residences adhere to best practices, creating spaces where people receive the support they need. HB 58 threatens these carefully built standards by shifting responsibilities to local Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADM) Boards, which do not have the expertise or infrastructure necessary to develop and manage a certification framework, let alone an effective complaint process. The statewide structure currently in place provides vital consistency and accountability that local boards simply cannot replicate.



We urge this committee to preserve the integrity of Ohio's recovery housing system and to reject HB 58. The progress we have made through Senate Bill 33 must be protected to continue serving those in recovery with safe, high-quality housing options that meet their needs. Disrupting this framework would be a disservice to the very individuals who rely on recovery housing for stability and support.

I respectfully request that you vote against HB 58 and uphold the standards we have worked so hard to establish. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Reba McCray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the last letter.

Reba McCray

Executive Director of ARC Recovery Services

President of Ohio Recovery Housing Board