



Ohio Recovery Housing

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### **Testimony of Danielle Gray, Executive Director, Ohio Recovery Housing**

Chair Landis, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Blackshear and members of the Senate Addiction and Community Revitalization Committee,

My name is Danielle Gray, and I represent Ohio Recovery Housing. We are a non-profit dedicated to ensuring access to quality recovery housing in Ohio. Currently, we manage a rigorous certification program aligned with the National Alliance of Recovery Residences' standards. This program includes detailed policy reviews, onsite interviews, and physical inspections. We maintain a robust process to handle complaints related to recovery housing.

We are honored to be chosen as one of the entities that provides a credential that is accepted by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services that allows recovery housing operators to operate, receive funding, and receive referrals in the state of Ohio.

We are supportive of the language included in Senate Bill 138 that would implement criminal penalties for individuals who are operating recovery housing without an appropriate credential. Currently, if there is an operation that does not have the appropriate credential, the information must be submitted to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and then be forwarded onto the Attorney General, which can take precious time.

Additionally, the current law only allows the attorney general to seek an appropriate injunction in the appropriate court. The individuals responsible for not following the law, and potentially harming Ohioans in recovery, are able to simply open other businesses and continue their practices.

Adding criminal penalties to the existing legislative framework would provide local prosecutors with the necessary tools to act decisively. The individuals responsible will face criminal penalties, in addition to having business operations cease.

This approach strengthens Ohio's existing commitment to ensuring that recovery homes in Ohio provide high quality services and support to those in early recovery and that bad actors are addressed appropriately.

We appreciate the bill sponsors' and the committee's commitment to addressing these critical issues.

Thank you for your time and consideration.