



Testimony of Katie Jo Breidenbach Wooding
Ohio Recovery Housing
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
October 19, 2021

Chairman Manning, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Katie Jo Breidenbach Wooding and I am the Education and Communications Manager of the Ohio Recovery Housing. Ohio Recovery Housing is a non-profit organization with a mission to increase access to high quality recovery housing opportunities for Ohioans with substance use disorders. There are over six-hundred known recovery homes in state of Ohio, providing over six-thousand Ohioans with safe, stable and affordable environments to live in recovery.

I am writing today to express support of SB 158, to amend section 1923.01 and to enact section 1923.111 of the Ohio Revised Code related to expungement of eviction case court files.

We know that recovery housing works. Ohio Recovery Housing has been collecting data on resident outcomes using a resident survey since 2016. A recent analysis of the survey results demonstrates the impact of recovery housing. 98% of residents indicate that they are connected to an ongoing recovery support that is likely to continue even after they leave recovery housing. Only 21% of residents were employed when they moved into recovery housing, compared to 52% of residents at move out. A little less than half (48%) of residents had no income when they moved into recovery housing compared to only 33% of move-out respondents. These results indicate that residents of recovery housing not only provides support for recovery, but also helps residents gain employment, increase income and build lasting recovery capital for their future.

A critical support provided by recovery home operators is assisting exiting residents in finding safe permanent housing when they are ready to leave the recovery home. Even with all of the positive gains made when living in recovery housing, barriers still exist for residents who are seeking independent housing when moving out of a recovery home. They may have a job, steady income, and appropriate supports in place to maintain recovery, but they are unable to secure housing due to a past eviction. With such an eviction on their record, residents struggle finding a safe and independent housing environment.

This legislation would enable recovery housing operators, who are considered landlords, to assist residents in having such evictions removed from their records, enabling them to find safe, stable permanent housing in their communities. The passage of SB 158 would allow more Ohioans to maintain long term recovery and healthy lifestyles.

Respectfully,

Katie Jo Breidenbach Wooding
Ohio Recovery Housing