



Ohio Recovery Housing

17 S. High Street, Suite 799 | Columbus, OH 43215
614-453-5133 (phone) | 614-228-0740 (fax)

www.OhioRecoveryHousing.org

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Chairman Landis and Members of the Ohio Senate Community Revitalization Committee.

My name is Danielle Gray and I serve as the Executive Director for Ohio Recovery Housing, a non-profit organization with a mission to increase access to high quality, affordable, recovery housing for Ohioans with substance use disorders. We are the state affiliate of the National Alliance of Recovery Residences, and as such we maintain a certification review process that ensures that ORH certified recovery homes meet nationally recognized standards for quality. As a state affiliate of NARR, we are also one of the two listed entities in Chapter 5119 for certification of recovery housing residence that OhioMHAS may accept with regards to recovery housing quality standards.

I am grateful for the opportunity to address you today concerning Senate Bill 105 and its implications for our community, particularly in relation to the expanded authority granted to county boards to investigate concerns within the continuum of care, including recovery housing.

While we appreciate the intent behind Senate Bill 105 to address concerns within the continuum of care and ensure the well-being of individuals in recovery, we express our deep concern regarding the ability of county boards to have vague investigative authority that is not tied to any specific standards for quality.

Ohio recently passed carefully crafted and considered language in HB 33 that establishes a grievance process for recovery housing, the expansion of authority for county boards to investigate concerns within the continuum of care raises questions about consistency and uniformity in the investigation and resolution process. It is paramount that any concerns raised are investigated and addressed consistently to instill confidence among consumers, providers, and neighbors alike. Ohio is working to establish a one-stop place for individuals to report concerns and have them addressed.

Under the new requirements, if a home is certified, the appropriate certification entity will perform the investigation, implement any quality improvement plans, or, if necessary, remove certification. If a home is not certified and is violating Chapter 5119.39, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services will be notified right away so they can take appropriate action under the law and notify the Ohio Attorney General and the Ohio Attorney General can take appropriate action under the law.

Any confirmed findings of investigations will be posted on the publicly available registry, so county boards, providers, and the general public can all see the findings and how they are being addressed. This will include if programs lose certification.

While we recognize the necessity of investigating concerns within the continuum of care, we urge the committee to prioritize consistency and transparency throughout the process. Consistency in investigation and resolution will not only safeguard the rights and well-being of individuals in recovery but also foster trust in the policies and regulations established by the Ohio General Assembly.

Thank you for considering our concerns and for your dedication to ensuring that Ohioans are not only provided with the services and support that they need to enter and sustain recovery, but also to ensure that those services are of the highest quality.

I would be happy to answer any questions you have,

Danielle Gray

Executive Director
