

Legislative Testimony (online submissions) 7-3-2023

Timestamp	Full Name	City	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachment
07/03/2023 8:15:28	Kurt Svendsen	ARNOLD	21012	Yes		Bill 52-23: Adequate School Facilities – Affordable Housing – Workforce Housing – School Utilization Chart	Oppose	See attached one-page PDF	YES
07/03/2023 9:10:03	Samantha Griebel	Chester	21619	Yes		Bill 53-23: Zoning – Solar Energy Generating Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:09:31	Lawrence Griebel	Chester	21619	Yes		Bill 53-23: Zoning – Solar Energy Generating Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:08:40	Theresa Griebel	Chester	21619	Yes		Bill 53-23: Zoning – Solar Energy Generating Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
06/30/2023 10:12:44	Mark Kleinschmidt	Annapolis, MD	21401	No	Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce	Bill 53-23: Zoning – Solar Energy Generating Facilities	No Position	It is important to encourage the expanded development of solar energy on the national and local levels. The Federal Government has established quite a few incentives laden programs to support solar energy and has even made certain tax credits available to citizens and businesses to further encourage the use of solar energy. The Chamber supports these efforts and believes it is important that Anne Arundel County also support these efforts and we would like to suggest the following items be considered by County Council as you consider Ordinance 53-23. •Continue to allow solar energy generating facility – community in W-1 districts as a conditional use. Land that is zoned for industrial use is a logical location for a community solar facility that will help supply electricity to the businesses located there. Limiting this use to roof top mounted only neglects to consider the improved efficiencies and increased prevalence of ground mounted facilities. •In many cases, the community solar facility will provide a direct benefit to small business since the cost of electricity will be reduced and the Chamber strongly supports land use and zoning regulations and zoning that will lower the cost of operation to a small business. Thank you for considering our comments and the Chamber is hopeful that community solar generating facilities will be fully allowed in W-1 districts since they are environmentally friendly, in step with national energy policies and support small businesses.	
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07/03/2023 10:45:51	Amanda Moltor	Dundalk	21222	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	My name is Amanda, I am a recovering addict myself, and I also work in a treatment center in Anne Arundel Co. I am in support of this bill for many reasons. The main one is the fact that recovery is not easy and people trying to recover from an addiction deserve a fighting chance at a better life. Having access to QUALITY treatment and QUALITY living arrangements is a major factor in whether a recovering addict is going to be successful. Setting people up for success should be a priority, and that's what this bill entails.	
07/03/2023 10:20:42	Michael Richards	Gambrills	21054	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Oppose	I would like to state that this bill is being put in place by Joe Rogers whom has been working with Volke not because he cares about addicts but because he wants to make money and his mom ran for states attorney so ironically he has a bill that is being voted on. This country is a joke that you can be rich and make the law serve your business.	
07/03/2023 10:11:45	Michelle Hoyas	Pasadena	21122	No	Gaudenzia	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Michelle Hoyas. I am the program coordinator for Gaudenzia Crownsville. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 10:09:17	Diana Casey	Linthicum	21090	No	Gaudenzia	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Diana Casey. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	

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07/03/2023 10:04:33	MARY LILLY	Crownsville	21203	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Mary Lilly. I am the Director of Nursing for Gaudenzia and support Bill 55-23 with the amendments from Mr. Volke. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulations by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change the definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 10:01:42	Owen	waldorf md	20602	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:59:37	Bryce Thomas Hudak, LCSW-C	Arnold	21012	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Greetings County Councilmembers, My name is Bryce Hudak, LCSW-C, Executive Director of University Psychological Center, Inc. / Recovery Network (herein referred to as UPCC/RN) with offices in Baltimore City and Prince Georges County providing co-occurring integrated Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder services to Maryland. I am also a resident of Anne Arundel County. Supporting this bill is essential in ensuring quality of care and oversight for licensed behavioral health services in the state of Maryland. Therefore, I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Currently, under Anne Arundel County code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed to operate under definitions and regulations specific to the service level. Bill 55-23 will help increase access to regulated and safe recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. Under current regulations, providers are able to skirt around requirements for residential treatment facilities, by offering “Partial Hospitalization with Housing” (PHP Providers with Housing) services which provide almost equivalent reimbursement for services as residential providers, except they do not have to follow the stringent requirements and oversight as residential providers (ASAM 3.1, 3.3, 3.5, 3.7, etc.). While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to surpass state and local regulation through false advertising and creating unsafe environments for vulnerable populations. The Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration, and National Accreditation regulatory bodies relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. Currently, these regulations are not written or enforced, which creates a high risk liability for both patients and the communities by not having proper definitions, code, and safeguards in place to protect the people we serve. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, a Professor at University of Maryland School of Social Work, and Executive Professional in the field, it is disheartening to see unregulated providers be allowed to act in the “grey areas” or in essence, practice illegally, without enforcement or code directing their line of business and provide hazardous conditions to individuals which only reduce outcomes and increase risks for vulnerable persons. One clear example of this is allowing PHP with Housing programs to operate without proper fire codes being enforced, such as requiring fire suppression systems, emergency preparedness plans, CPR training for staff, 24/7 trained staff oversight, overdose prevention training and preparedness by staff, on-call clinical support, care coordination, and the list goes on. These unregulated housing programs are not required to provide any of these safeguards to protect the patients served. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change the definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. As a Graduate Professor at University of Maryland School of Social Work, I teach ASAM (American Society of Addiction Medicine), which is the national body of medical experts who set the clinical guidelines that define levels of care under Maryland COMAR. ASAM defines Level 2.5 as an outpatient service. Medicaid, following ASAM guidelines, holds Level 2.5 to be an outpatient service and Medicaid has regulation regarding additional incentives. The combination of Level 2.5 with a residential component under ASAM is a residential treatment facility that requires accreditation, licensure for the residential facility including fire safety such as fire panels and sprinkler systems, 24/7 staffing and a host of safety and clinical standards. Maryland Medicaid has funded residential treatment under a Medicaid waiver since 2018. Recovery residences should operate separately from treatment providers in order to ensure the vital and independent supportive housing for those in recovery without the dual relationship of landlord and treatment provider. Temporary housing that lasts as long as treatment is authorized – for Level 2.5 this is typically 21 days – does not result in an independent network of recovery housing in the community. It is imperative that we protect our patients by ensuring that providers follow the most stringent of regulations for the highest quality of care. Please do not let this state be overridden with practitioners who have learned to scheme the system and get away with it. At the end of the day, it’s the patients who suffer the most. Lastly, while opinions may vary on this Bill, it is clear that all sides are dedicated to bringing recovery to those in need. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke. Thank you, Bryce Hudak, LCSW-C Executive Director University Psychological Center, Inc. Professor University of Maryland School of Social Work Resident of Anne Arundel Co.	YES
07/03/2023 9:53:42	Randi Howser	Annapolis	21403	Yes	Recovery Network	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulations by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:52:35	Ashley Madison	Elkton	21921	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	

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07/03/2023 9:50:06	Allison Pearce	reisterstown	21104	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:43:33	Kim Wireman	Baltimore	21231	No	Powell Recovery Center, Inc.	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support		YES
07/03/2023 9:41:01	Joseph Timmerman	dunkirk	20754	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Joseph Timmerman. I am a licensed CSC-AD in the state of Maryland. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. I have been working for ten years providing clinical treatment to patients in licensed residential treatment facilities. I believe that every treatment provider in the state of Maryland should be held to the same standard. While there is an overwhelming need for treatment in the state of Maryland, it seems unfortunate that some organizations would not ensure the same level of quality in their programs as was designed for such providers. I believe it is important for the county to have clear regulations to ensure that organizations are not taking advantage of a vulnerable population. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:40:52	Emmanuel Baylor	Gambrills	21054	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	My name is Emmanuel Baylor. I am a resident of Anne Arundel County and am concerned about health care providers in the recovery industry that are exploiting loopholes that exist within the current regulations for residential treatment. Therefore, I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:38:02	Scott Meushaw	Westminster	21157	No	Project Chesapeake	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:36:45	Megan Czapp	Bel Alton	20611	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:35:57	Billy Wayne Rose Jr	Westminster	21157	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:34:19	Heather Lynn Wetzel	Union Bridge	21791	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	

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Timestamp	Full Name	City	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachment
07/03/2023 9:05:26	Hannah Griebel	Pasadena	21122	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:05:07	Mark Pragle	Bear	19701	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:05:01	Maegen Brannon	Odenton	21113	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:04:23	Sandra Pragle	Bear	19701	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:02:51	Rachel Lantrip	Crownsville	21032	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 9:01:59	Alexandra Pragle	Abingdon	21009	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 8:56:39	Therese Hessler	Annapolis	21401	No	Recovery Housing & Treatment Centers Coalition of Maryland	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Oppose		YES
07/03/2023 8:37:13	Shannon Johnson	Crofton	21114	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Shannon Johnson. I am a licensed behavioral health therapist, specializing in addiction treatment. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	

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07/03/2023 8:29:45	Kristy Blalock	Crofton	21114	No	Gaudenzia Inc.	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Kristy Blalock. I am the Executive Director of Gaudenzia, Inc. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. We know that the state of Maryland has a challenge with providers and the illegal concept of “PHP and a pillow” where PHP substance use disorder providers are assessing ASAM level 3.5 and 3.7 appropriate patients and placing them into free recovery housing as long as they attend their lower level (not staffed) PHP program – which is billable form 5 days per week. These are programs that do NOT provide the clinical and medical oversight to ensure a patient needing detox or medically monitored care is SAFE. This is illegal, extremely unsafe and puts the responsibility on other recovery house providers to monitor for a highly plausible medical situation. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/03/2023 0:02:42	Gretchen Gauthier	Pasadena	21122	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support		YES
07/02/2023 22:36:46	Jada Payne	Crofton	21114	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Jada Payne. I am an LGPC/ADT working in the behavioral health field with clients with co-occurring disorders. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/02/2023 22:06:57	Stacy Gillen	Marriottsville	21104	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Stacy Gillen. I am an LCSW C with 15 years experience providing clinical services to individuals with substance related disorders in Maryland. For the past 5 years I've worked in Anne Arundel County, now serving as a SUD Program Director. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. As a clinician, the highlight of this bill is that it would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. It is essential for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/02/2023 20:12:41	Alex Estill	Edgewater	21037	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Alex Estill, and I am a residential real estate agent who was born and raised, and lives and works, in Anne Arundel County. As Anne Arundel County continues to fight the opioid epidemic, we are seeing more and more recovery housing and licensed residential treatment in our neighborhoods. Access to quality treatment and safe housing is critical. It is also important to solve the current problems that exist with unregulated, unsafe housing in our neighborhoods. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/02/2023 20:02:35	Laura Brown	Crofton	21114	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Laura Brown, and I am a concerned resident of Anne Arundel County. I am aware of several neighborhoods where unregulated housing for those in recovery has been very problematic. We've observed houses that call themselves “recovery houses”, however they appear to be fully staffed by the operator, all residents are taken away from the house to treatment centers during the day on 12-passenger vans, and the residents turnover every few weeks. This is not my understanding of what a recovery house is supposed to be, where the residents should be in early recovery reintegrating back into their community. These unregulated houses appear to operate far more like licensed treatment centers than recovery houses. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/02/2023 19:37:14	Thomas Kohlmann	Crofton	21114	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Thomas Kohlmann. I am a retired Captain from the Anne Arundel County Police Department. Throughout my 30-year career in law enforcement, I have seen first-hand some of the unsafe living conditions that are forced upon people in active addiction and people in early recovery. Unregulated housing is a serious problem that affects not only people in recovery, but also the safety of our neighborhoods. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County, but they do currently exist and there are many of them. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction and would help make our communities a safer place to live by putting these properties on the grid and ensuring that only true independent recovery houses operators are defined as “recovery residences” under County Code – not licensed treatment providers that want to call themselves recovery residences to skirt state and local regulation. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/02/2023 19:26:10	Carol Boyer	Crownsville	21032	No	Hope House Treatment Center	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Councilmembers, We appreciate you taking time to listen to our concerns and we regret that we couldn't be there in-person to show our support and provide a statement. As one of the oldest and largest community-based treatment programs in Maryland, we understand all too well how those experiencing substance use disorders and mental health challenges can easily be taken advantage of in their vulnerable condition. Unfortunately, as you are aware, some providers are in this solely for the money and not to provide quality, evidence based treatment. It is our hope that Bill 55-23 will help move us in the right direction in addressing the “bad players” who prey on the most vulnerable of our community. Please let us know if you need any additional information.	

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07/02/2023 19:23:59	Peter D'Souza	Crownsville	21032	No	Hope House Treatment Center	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Greetings Council Members, Hope House Treatment Center is a non-profit dual diagnosis treatment center with locations in Crownsville and Laurel, Maryland. We are dedicated to providing individuals who are experiencing substance use disorders and mental health challenges with the means to become healthy and productive citizens, equipped with the tools for a life of sobriety and recovery. We recognize a serious problem in behavioral health with unregulated housing provided in conjunction with State-licensed outpatient treatment, commonly referred to as "PHP with a Pillow". We think it is imperative for Anne Arundel County to regulate in this space, and we view Bill 55-23 as an effective solution to ensure access to quality treatment, and safe living conditions for our most vulnerable population. Please feel free to reach out with any questions. 410-923-6700.	
07/02/2023 18:55:33	Mallory Wrobel	Crofton	21114	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Mallory Wrobel. I am an Anne Arundel County elementary school teacher in Glen Burnie. I have seen many children in our school impacted by the disease of addiction in their family and learned of horror stories of some of the living conditions of people in early recovery. Access to both quality clinical treatment services as well as safe recovery housing is vital for our community – but it is also critical to understand the difference between licensed treatment and recovery housing. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of "recovery residence" to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/02/2023 18:41:44	Diara Beverly	Windsor Mill	21244	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Diara Beverly. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of "recovery residence" to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
07/02/2023 17:39:40	Rebekha Rogers, LCSW-C	Annapolis	21401	No	Project Chesapeake	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Support	Dear County Councilmembers, My name is Rebekha Rogers. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, as well as the owner/founder of Project Chesapeake. We are family-owned business, and one of the largest behavioral health providers in Anne Arundel County. I am born and raised in Anne Arundel County, and still live here. I have dedicated my life to serving our most vulnerable population, something I continue to do proudly every single day. I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction. While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance. Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of "recovery residence" to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them. Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.	
06/29/2023 22:53:48	Michelle King	Pasadena	21122	No	Evolve Life Centers	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Oppose		YES
06/29/2023 22:52:22	Chris Pedersen	Pasadena	21122	No	Evolve Life Centers	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Oppose		YES
06/29/2023 22:50:30	Nicholas Albaugh	Pasadena	21122	No	Evolve Life Centers	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Oppose		YES
06/29/2023 15:12:41	Thomas Burden	Baltimore	21231	No	Achieve Behavioral Health Services & New Points LLC	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Oppose		YES
06/26/2023 15:23:12	Daniel Morrissey	Crownsville	21032	No	South Shore Recovery Club	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Oppose		YES
06/26/2023 15:20:15	Sahar Albaugh	Rockville	20852	Yes		Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Oppose		YES
06/26/2023 15:18:26	Michael Kipp	Dundalk	21222	No	Evolve Life Centers IOP	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Oppose		YES
06/26/2023 15:14:50	Jessie Costley	Westminster	21157	No	Evolve Life Centers IOP LLC	Bill 55-23: Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities	Oppose		YES
							74		

July 3, 2023 County Council Public Hearing: Bill 52-23 – APF Schools

I wholeheartedly support the County funding affordable housing projects. But not by sticking our head in the sand and ignoring the real impact such developments will have on school facilities by exempting them from APF requirements. Here's a "truth in budgeting" alternative:

- Identify the impact these development projects will have on public school facilities.
- Pay for mitigation using the Housing Trust Fund.
 - And, yes, those mitigation payments should be subject to project-specific appropriation authority... approved by the County Council.

I'm getting a little tired of hearing proponents for legislation like this "talking out of both sides of their mouth." At the same time that they "minimize" the likely impact of granting such exemptions, they argue the requirements otherwise present an onerous financial burden to FILL-IN THE BLANK [affordable housing]. Which is it? There's no such thing as a free lunch.

As I said at the beginning of my testimony, I wholeheartedly support the County funding affordable housing projects. Please just be open about the cost of such projects.

With respect to the addition of item (5) to section 17-5-501 (a). Counting capacity in an "adjacent" geographical attendance area as "available" regardless of AA County Board of Education (BOE) intentions to redistrict seems to be wildly optimistic. Even if the BOE officially declared its intent to redistrict, I think we need to see evidence of an effective track record before "counting those chickens before they hatched."

I'll conclude with an expression of continued frustration with respect to the timing of this legislation, and the lack of public engagement leading up to its introduction.

- The "School APF Workgroup Final Report" noted in the legislative summary for this Bill as having been issued in May of 2023 after well over two years of deliberation is nowhere to be found on the County website.
- Even a search of this workgroup's Google Share Drive, view rights to which required a Maryland Public Information Act request, yields only a draft version of this report.
- As of this morning, the Auditor's review of legislation to be heard this evening was not available on-line.
- There has not even been a County Council worksession on this Bill. Yet, it is now subject to a public hearing and potential final vote on a legislative day tucked between a weekend and the July 4th holiday.
- The County Council's recess over the month of August shortens the legislative review period by halving the number of sessions allowing for amendments to just two.

Sincerely,

Kurt Svendsen, Arnold, MD

Dear County Councilmembers,

My name is Amanda Dicken. I am a recovering addict, member of a 12-step program that supports recovery, resident of Anne Arundel County and an employee that works directly with clients in residential treatment.

In my experience, in order to successfully recover from mood- and mind-altering substances; there must be structure that includes clear and concise guide lines in place that would ensure providers to follow to give the best treatment possible to those that are sick and suffering.

I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction.

While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance.

Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them.

Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.

Greetings County Councilmembers,

My name is Bryce Hudak, LCSW-C, Executive Director of University Psychological Center, Inc. / Recovery Network (herein referred to as UPC/RN) with offices in Baltimore City and Prince Georges County providing co-occurring integrated Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder services to Maryland. I am also a resident of Anne Arundel County. Supporting this bill is essential in ensuring quality of care and oversight for licensed behavioral health services in the state of Maryland. Therefore, I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke.

Currently, under Anne Arundel County code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed to operate under definitions and regulations specific to the service level. Bill 55-23 will help increase access to regulated and safe recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction.

Under current regulations, providers are able to skirt around requirements for residential treatment facilities, by offering “Partial Hospitalization with Housing” (PHP Providers with Housing) services which provide almost equivalent reimbursement for services as residential providers, except they do not have to follow the stringent requirements and oversight as residential providers (ASAM 3.1, 3.3, 3.5, 3.7, etc.). While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to surpass state and local regulation through false advertising and creating unsafe environments for vulnerable populations.

The Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration, and National Accreditation regulatory bodies relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. Currently, these regulations are not written or enforced, which creates a high risk liability for both patients and the communities by not having proper definitions, code, and safeguards in place to protect the people we serve.

As a resident of Anne Arundel County, a Professor at University of Maryland School of Social Work, and Executive Professional in the field, it is disheartening to see unregulated providers be allowed to act in the “grey areas” or in essence, practice illegally, without enforcement or code directing their line of business and provide hazardous conditions to individuals which only reduce outcomes and increase risks for vulnerable persons. One clear example of this is allowing PHP with Housing programs to operate without proper fire codes being enforced, such as requiring fire suppression systems, emergency preparedness plans, CPR training for staff, 24/7 trained staff oversight, overdose prevention training and preparedness by staff, on-call clinical support, care coordination, and the list goes on. These unregulated housing programs are not required to provide any of these safeguards to protect the patients served.

Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change the definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them.

As a Graduate Professor at University of Maryland School of Social Work, I teach ASAM (American Society of Addiction Medicine), which is the national body of medical experts who set the clinical guidelines that define levels of care under Maryland COMAR. ASAM defines Level 2.5 as an outpatient

service. Medicaid, following ASAM guidelines, holds Level 2.5 to be an outpatient service and Medicaid has regulation regarding additional incentives. The combination of Level 2.5 with a residential component under ASAM is a residential treatment facility that requires accreditation, licensure for the residential facility including fire safety such as fire panels and sprinkler systems, 24/7 staffing and a host of safety and clinical standards. Maryland Medicaid has funded residential treatment under a Medicaid waiver since 2018.

Recovery residences should operate separately from treatment providers in order to ensure the vital and independent supportive housing for those in recovery without the dual relationship of landlord and treatment provider. Temporary housing that lasts as long as treatment is authorized – for Level 2.5 this is typically 21 days – does not result in an independent network of recovery housing in the community. It is imperative that we protect our patients by ensuring that providers follow the most stringent of regulations for the highest quality of care. Please do not let this state be overridden with practitioners who have learned to scheme the system and get away with it. At the end of the day, it's the patients who suffer the most.

Lastly, while opinions may vary on this Bill, it is clear that all sides are dedicated to bringing recovery to those in need.

Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.

Thank you,

Bryce Hudak, LCSW-C
Executive Director
University Psychological Center, Inc.

Professor
University of Maryland School of Social Work

Resident of Anne Arundel Co.

Sara@evolvelifecenters.com
CHRIS@EVOLVELIFECENTERS.com
Jessiecostley@evolvelifecenters.com

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Carressa Christian and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County. I have 21 years of uninterrupted sobriety. If it was not for me being able to get the help of recovery residency after completing in-house residential treatment, I would not be writing this letter. If there was a limit to how many residents could have lived in the recovery residency, I would have been made to return to my toxic community and I would have died. I was able to regain my independence with the help of the resources provided to me in recovery housing. To limit the amount of how many people can reside in recovery residency would prevent many people struggling with the disease of addiction the opportunity to experience the many gifts of sobriety.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for individuals as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that residents have varying needs, and that they can freely choose outside treatment. Addiction is our number one health issue and making it more difficult for recovery homes makes no sense.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Carressa Christian
1701 Shelby Court
Severn, Maryland 21144

June 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Kayla McClain, and I am a lifelong Anne Arundel county resident as well as a grateful recovered addict with four years of sobriety. Over these past few years, recovery has changed my life, and I see the positive change that it brings to anyone who chooses this path. Recovery housing in particular is a key component of healing for so many members of our community. Housing gives people the opportunity to begin working and learn how to reintegrate into a not only functional, but exceptional member of society. In this environment, they are able to be around and be supported by others who have chosen recovery.

The population in our community continues to be in need of resources for people suffering from addiction. Limiting the number of people who can be in a recovery residence *does not* mean that less people will need access to these resources. It pains me to even imagine the amount of people who will be left with nowhere to go if this bill is passed, and what negative impact it will have on their recovery journey.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a

2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Kayla McClain
307 Locust Thorn Ct
Millersville, MD 21108

June 14, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Kathleen (Kathy) Odell-Carlson, an IOP/OP counselor at Evolve Life Centers. I entered the field of substance use treatment because addictions have affected my family for several generations back. In my great-grandparents and grandparents day, there was no compassionate treatment available to them, so they continue to suffer with the disease, with the disease also having a tremendous impact on their families. When it came time for my mother (sober 1963) brother (sober 1991) and me (sober 1983) to seek treatment, there was a small number of residential treatment centers available, along with 12-step programs. Thanks to my mother's courage and influence, we were able to rebuild a sober and healthy family. Along with my family addiction history, I worked at Baltimore City Community College for 24 years, watching students suffer with their own addictions, along with those of their family members. If we are to continue to fight the disease of addiction, it is critical to provide safe housing and treatment, so that those who are still suffering can recover without fear of relapse.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for individuals as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that residents have varying needs, and that they can freely choose outside treatment. Addiction is our number one health issue and making it more difficult for recovery homes makes no sense.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Kathleen Odell-Carlson, ADT, MS

Addiction Counselor
Evolve Life Centers

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is William Collins. I have been working in the field of recovery for the last four years. I have personally witnessed the growth that these housing programs have had on, not only the individual residents, themselves, but also the positive impact they have had on the communities around them. Had it not been for programs such as these, many of my friends and family would have ended up homeless with no hope in sight for a better future. I, myself, have nine years clean, and can credit a great deal of my own recovery to the insights and fellowship of the people within these communities. I truly believe that without the sober living options currently available, that many addicts will be without the opportunity to experience safe, conducive, and healthy living options. Sober living establishments help with an array of positive life-changing experiences with accountability and structure.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for individuals as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that residents have varying needs, and that they can freely choose outside treatment. Addiction is our number one health issue and making it more difficult for recovery homes makes no sense.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

William Collins
Recovery Technician
Evolve Life Centers

2528 Mountain Rd
Pasadena MD, 21122

June 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Gage Theodore, I have been a person in recovery since September of 2014, I have worked in the substance abuse field since 2017. Both personally and professionally I have witnessed first hand the lasting benefits of having adequate treatment and sober living houses have on our suffering population. Providing a safe, structured, substance free living environment makes a world of difference to those navigating early recovery. Sober living/ recovery housing not only ensures a safe environment for early growth, but allows for a smooth transition back to everyday life while still being held accountable. The chances of an individual achieving long term recovery significantly increases when they take part in structured sober living. The same was absolutely true for me personally, as well as countless clients served over the years.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for individuals as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that residents have varying needs, and that they can freely choose outside treatment. Addiction is our number one health issue and making it more difficult for recovery homes makes no sense.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Gage Theodore
12310 Sweetbough Ct
N. Potomac Md, 20878

Letter

1 message

Nate Hollinger <nate@evolvecenters.com>

Thu, Jun 15, 2023 at 9:32 AM

To: Chris Pedersen <chris@evolvecenters.com>, Jessie Costley <jessiecostley@evolvecenters.com>, Sara Burden <sara@evolvecenters.com>

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Nate Hollinger, I would like to address this bill and express my concern and disagreement on this particular issue that would costlly effect our community as a whole due to the lack of help that we have experienced prior to amazing centers on a uproar to positively impact the silent pandemic and the war on drugs. As most know drug usage and overdose percentage have shot up over the last several years. We lack resources to not only help but teach a way of life acceptable to society. These recovery houses, treatment centers and residential recovery centers have changed the game and made a huge impact on Anne arundel in particular. These centers teach humans how to clean,cook,get jobs, interact with others from all different walks of life, be held accountable, give them a sense of matter, teach and show compassion, give hope, and positively impact the world to change one's life. I personally have not only gone through a program but I am able to work and help the next addict seeking recovery and a new way of life. If this bill were to pass I would tell you all that this will put a huge dent in all the progress we have accomplished over the past couple years and we are only growing stronger and helping not only our community but the world as a whole. Please put all of this into consideration as you all make the decision and know that it is vital that we keep what we have and continue to grow. We want to positively impact so many lives that we change the world.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for individuals as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that residents have varying needs, and that they can freely choose outside treatment. Addiction is our number one health issue and making it more difficult for recovery homes makes no sense.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Nate Hollinger

Crownsville, MD 21032

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Nate Hollinger
Recovery Technician

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June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Stephen Haker and I am in recovery from drugs and alcohol and have been clean since May 4, 2012 and have seen how amazing recovery houses are regarding helping individuals caught in the grips of addiction. I am currently a Substance Abuse Counselor and recovery housing is absolutely vital and crucial for individuals to work on getting themselves back to being better members of society and being able to focus on rebuilding themselves with a network of other residents of these housing programs and having the accountability to grow in their recovery process and especially more importantly in their treatment process. Sober living is crucial in helping provide a safe environment with stability, structure and accountability and without it many individuals would continue to be lost and the numbers of losses would exponentially increase. I have seen the positive effects of clients going into sober living and having some flexibility but also having others to hold them accountable is **absolutely crucial and vital. I employ you to be able to focus on what we need to do in order to help rehabilitate addicts and how absolutely important sober living houses need to remain in place to help the lost and the addicted to find some type of solitude and knowing that we are here to fight for all of those that are addicted. I cannot imagine the hardship and the increase of loss that will continue to incur if these sober living options are not available to the alcoholic and the addict.**

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for individuals as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that residents have varying needs, and that they can freely choose outside treatment. Addiction is our number one health issue and making it more difficult for recovery homes makes no sense.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Stephen J. Haker, CSC-AD
Evolve Life Centers 3.1 Low Intensity Residential Treatment Program
Primary Substance Abuse Counselor
2528 Mountain Road
Pasadena, MD. 21122

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Dan Morrissey, and I am the Development Committee Chairman of South Shore Recovery Club located at 1199 Generals Hwy Crownsville, MD 21032. Our organization hosts 12-step meetings for AA/NA/CDA and other fellowships helping those in recovery maintain their sobriety. Over the past 31 years we have been open, we have served thousands of individuals from Anne Arundel County.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Daniel Morrissey
South Shore Recovery Club
1199 Generals Hwy
Crownsville, MD 21032

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Michael Kipp, and I am a Financial Consultant with over 30 years of experience working with companies ranging from in size from start-ups to Fortune 100. For the last six months I am proud to say Evolve Life Centers has been my client. Over that time, I have had the opportunity to see first-hand the care, concern and success Evolve has for and with its clients. From my perspective it is humbling to know organizations like Evolve are available for those most in need and when they most need it.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Michael Kipp
13 Bayship Rd.
Dundalk, MD. 21222



June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Dr. John Kotz, EdD, and I am the Director of Operations of Recovery180 located in multiple locations across Maryland. Recovery180 is a low-intensity residential treatment program that provides substance abuse treatment in a structured sober living environment. The program includes 6 months of housing and clinical services for clients as part of a comprehensive approach to addiction treatment. Clients are supported as they gain skills to improve their physical, mental, emotional, and financial health, with the goal of becoming self-sufficient and independent. Over the last year that we have been in business, we have served over 100 clients and currently employ approximately 30 staff members, many of which are in recovery.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage. As I stated previously, many of our employees are in recovery and, included in their journeys, was time in a recovery house. Personally, I was able to build a foundation of recovery in this environment that has led me to grow personally and professionally, including recently earning my doctorate degree. With a cap of five people in this environment, many like me would not have had the opportunity to grow because the bed space that we utilized would not have been available.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for patients as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that patients have varying needs, and patients can freely choose outside treatment. In my professional experience, the continuum of care from one level to the next is critical to a person's recovery. When a client finds a program that is a good fit for them and they are excelling within it, it has been detrimental to some to have to start over with another program and adapt. I have seen it on many occasions in my eight-plus years working in substance use disorder treatment. When someone is newer in recovery, there are already numerous changes occurring simultaneously, so there is a need for consistency in treatment.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.



We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Dr. John Kotz, EdD
Director of Operations
Recovery180



June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Greg Rothgeb, and I am Primary Counselor of Evolve Life Centers located at 2528 Mountain Rd, Pasadena, MD 21122. Our organization helps people struggling with their addiction rebuild their lives and be not just in recovery from drug and alcohol addictions, but to be functioning members of society. This includes being employable, handling responsibilities such as being a parent or a dependable family member, and being a general asset to the community.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population experiencing substance abuse two steps back. How it appears to myself and many people is a general disinterest in a large majority of the population, primarily based in unfounded stigma of individuals struggling with mental health disorders. I find it particularly disappointing that several of the members on the council I personally voted for as an Anne Arundel County resident, and would not be

interested in remaining part of their constituency if they were to vote against this very important bill impacting a dire necessity for my place of work, my place of residence, and my field of passion.

Thank you.

Greg Rothgeb
Evolve Life Centers
2528 Mountain Rd, Pasadena, MD 21122

Letter from mother Sheila Fenzel

1 message

Sara Burden <sara@evolvelifecenters.com>

Wed, Jun 14, 2023 at 9:37 AM

To: Chris Pedersen <chris@evolvelifecenters.com>, Jessie Costley <jessiecostley@evolvelifecenters.com>, Sarah Peters <speters@hbstrategies.us>, Therese McGucken Hessler <therese@ashlargr.com>

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Shelia Fenzel - one of many mom's in AACO that have had the unfortunate experience of a having a child with the disease of addiction !

I am a life long resident of Anne Arundel County and am so thankful for all of these treatment centers (inpatient, outpatient, and residential homes) that have provided the support my son needed.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other.

Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for patients as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that patients have varying needs, and patients can freely choose outside treatment. I personally believe the in house treatment was the turning point for my son! Please don't make any changes that would prevent others from this positive experience.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0%, increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.
Shelia Fenzel

--

Sara Burden
Chief Executive Officer
443-LIVFREE
2528 Mountain RD Ste. 204
Pasadena MD 21122
sara@evolvelifecenters.com
www.evolvelifecenters.com

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June 14, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Patrick Roderick, I am a drug and alcohol counselor at Evolve Life Centers 3.3 program. Our clients rely on us to find help for their substance use disorders. Most of our clients have a severe diagnosis and treatment is truly the difference between life or death for them. Typically, our clients are coming to our 3.3 program after completing a 3.5 program, and from us they transition to a 3.1 program or sober living house. There is no short term fix for a life long problem. People with substance use disorders need residential treatment.

With Councilman Volke's prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling; residential treatment will not be able to function financially nor therapeutically. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for patients as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that patients have varying needs, and patients can freely choose outside treatment. Addiction is our number one health issue and making it more difficult for recovery homes makes no sense.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population, experiencing substance abuse, two steps back.

Sincerely,

Patrick Roderick, CSC-AD
3.3 Treatment Counselor
Evolve Life Centers



June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Jackie Gatton, and I am the Treasurer for Evolve Life Centers. I have been with Evolve Life Centers since October 2018. I have worked with our Residential program since I started in 2018. I have personally witnessed the amazing gift of success and recovery for thousands of Clients. So many of our clients are homeless when they come to us. And simply just need a clean safe place to live so that they can maintain their sobriety. If Evolve Life Centers was not permitted to help as many clients as we do, I can't help but think of how many moms or dads would not be here today. I would personally like to share a little bit of my personal life today and just how filled with so many amazing people it is. And yes, all of them are in recovery. Over the years since my employment with Evolve the people who are now family that have come into my life are truly a gift. I often ask myself, where would they be if they did not have the opportunity for Residential Housing when they started their journey of recovery.

It is my professional observation that currently most of our clients are on some type of funding to assist them with paying rent and more often than not clients cannot pay, and Evolve Life Centers offers so many clients a scholarship (free rent). If Evolve Life Centers Residential Program was downsized to a limit of 5 people per house, the increase in rent would triple and this financial hardship for them would create so many more barriers and simply prevent them from having a new start at a better way of life. For me, I hope you know that is so much more than just a letter opposing this bill. I have a brother whom I have watched almost lose his life to the disease of addiction. And I respectfully ask that you do not pass this bill and restrict anyone from receiving in-house treatment. A residential home setting is more than just essential for clients. I truly believe this is a beginning for them to feel like they are home and in a home.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population experiencing substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Jackie Gatton
2528 Mountain Road
Pasadena, MD 21122



Compassion
Adaptability
Commitment
Drive

2528 Mountain Road, Suite 204, Pasadena, MD 21122
443-LIV-FREE * www.evovelifecenters.com



June 14, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Christine McGowen, LCPC-C and I am the Clinical Supervisor of Evolve Life Centers, located at 4231 Postal Ct Pasadena, MD 21122. Our company helps those in recovery maintain their sobriety through Intensive Outpatient (IOP), Outpatient (OP), Partial Hospitalization Programing (PHP) as well as 3.1 and 3.3 level Residential Level of Care Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment. Evolve has served thousands of individuals from Anne Arundel County. I, personally, come from a Mental Health background with my training and education before entering the SUD field and I see how unfair legal restrictions can limit quality care in SUD Treatment facilities, especially in a residential setting. Our company also offers Outpatient Mental Health Clinic (OMHC) services and the need for treatment of co-occurring disorders is dire in the SUD community. Housing is a basic need that must be covered in order for a client to be able to focus on progress in any treatment.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for patients as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that patients have varying needs, and patients can freely choose outside treatment. Addiction is our number one health issue and making it more difficult for recovery homes makes no sense.

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Thank you.

Christine McGowen, LCPC-C
Evolve Life Centers
Clinical Supervisor
443-LIV-FREE

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Amanda Ballengee and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County. Since October 18, 2018, I have been in recovery. During a time when I felt lost and uncertain about what steps to take, Evolve Life Centers welcomed me with open arms. I knew deep down that I wanted to break free from addictive addiction, but I lacked the knowledge and guidance to make it happen. From the moment I arrived at Evolve Life Centers, a glimmer of hope began to illuminate my path to recovery. Witnessing the success and transformation of the individuals who were already part of the program filled me with inspiration and a sense of possibility. Thankfully Evolve was there for me, providing the necessary tools and connections to facilitate my successful reentry into society.

I firmly believe that without the support of Evolve Life Centers, I would not be where I am today. Through their assistance, I have been able to secure employment, purchase my own home, and most importantly, fulfill the roles of a mother, daughter and spouse. As a result of their unwavering support, I have been able to rebuild my life on a solid foundation. I will forever be grateful for their belief in my ability to do something that I thought was impossible.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage. The community setting I was in during my recovery was invaluable to my personal growth and learning. If there had been a low number of residents allowed at the facility, I believe I would not have gained the same depth of knowledge and experience. The dynamic interactions and support within the community played a significant role in my progress. I am deeply grateful that there was a bed available for me at the crucial time. The thought of not having that opportunity is daunting, as I truly do not know what I would have done without it.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other.

Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for patients as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that patients have varying needs, and patients can freely choose outside treatment. By residing on-site, I was able to focus solely on my journey without the worries of the outside world. The constant supervision and structured environment provided during my time in the program played a vital role in setting me up for success as I completed the program.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population experiencing substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Amanda Ballengee

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Dan Morrissey, and I am the Development Committee Chairman of South Shore Recovery Club located at 1199 Generals Hwy Crownsville, MD 21032. Our organization hosts 12-step meetings for AA/NA/CDA and other fellowships helping those in recovery maintain their sobriety. Over the past 31 years we have been open, we have served thousands of individuals from Anne Arundel County.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Daniel Morrissey
South Shore Recovery Club
1199 Generals Hwy
Crownsville, MD 21032

Dear County Councilmembers,

My name is Gretchen Gauthier. I am an Addictions Counselor in Anne Arundel County.

I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction.

While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance.

Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them.

Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Jessie Costley, one of many mothers that have had the unfortunate experience of losing a child to the disease of addiction!

I'm currently working for a recovery treatment center and have witnessed the support treatment centers (inpatient, outpatient, and residential homes) provide many individuals and families in Anne Arundel County.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you

Jessie Costley
Pasadena, MD 21122



**Powell Recovery Center, Inc.
14 South Broadway
Baltimore, Maryland 21231
(410) 276 – 1773
(410) 276 – 2056 (fax)**

July 3, 2023

Dear County Councilmembers:

I am Kim Wireman, LCSW-C, LCADC, President/CEO of Powell Recovery Center, Inc. in Baltimore City. Powell is a licensed residential and outpatient treatment agency in Baltimore City providing 275 beds for public health clients at the forefront of the fentanyl epidemic.

I support Bill 55-23 with amendments from Mr. Volke. Under the current code, recovery residences are not explicitly allowed anywhere in Anne Arundel County. This bill would ensure increased access to recovery residence beds for those recovering from addiction.

While we may be protecting this group of recovery house operators by exempting them from fire suppression requirements, we must not create an incentive for State-licensed treatment providers to skirt state and local regulation by calling themselves one thing while they are acting as another. The State relies on its local partners to ensure compliance with zoning and building codes, so it is important for Anne Arundel County to have clear and precise regulations for each type of housing that correspond to the state-licensure. We currently do not. Allowing recovery residences in all zones and exempting them from fire suppression requirements without clearly defining what a recovery residence is and is not – and differentiating it from the licensed residential treatment providers that care for the most vulnerable of clients on the continuum of addiction services – will usher in confusion for all providers and create an incentive for bad actors to seek the path of least resistance.

Bill 55-23, with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke, solves several serious problems, however, any proposed amendment to Bill 55-23 that would change the definition of “recovery residence” to allow the operator of the recovery residence to also be a treatment provider that provides ASAM Level 2.5 or higher treatment services, is an amendment that would make the existing serious problems exponentially worse than they are now, as opposed to solving them.



**Powell Recovery Center, Inc.
14 South Broadway
Baltimore, Maryland 21231
(410) 276 – 1773
(410) 276 – 2056 (fax)**

ASAM or the American Society of Addiction Medicine is the national body of medical experts who set the clinical guidelines that define levels of care under Maryland COMAR. ASAM defines Level 2.5 as an outpatient service. Medicaid, following ASAM guidelines, holds Level 2.5 to be an outpatient service and Medicaid has regulation regarding additional incentives. The combination of Level 2.5 with a residential component under ASAM is a residential treatment facility that requires accreditation, licensure for the residential facility including fire safety such as fire panels and sprinkler systems, 24/7 staffing and a host of safety and clinical standards. Maryland Medicaid has funded residential treatment under a Medicaid waiver since 2018.

Recovery residences should operate separately from treatment providers in order to ensure the vital and independent supportive housing for those in recovery without the dual relationship of landlord and treatment provider. Temporary housing that lasts as long as treatment is authorized – for Level 2.5 this is typically 21 days – does not result in an independent network of recovery housing in the community.

Lastly, while opinions may vary on this Bill, it is clear that all sides are dedicated to bringing recovery to those in need.

Please support Bill 55-23 with the amendments proposed by Mr. Volke.

Sincerely,

Kim Wireman, LCADC, LCSW-C
President /CEO

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Michael Kipp, and I am a Financial Consultant with over 30 years of experience working with companies ranging from in size from start-ups to Fortune 100. For the last six months I am proud to say Evolve Life Centers has been my client. Over that time, I have had the opportunity to see first-hand the care, concern and success Evolve has for and with its clients. From my perspective it is humbling to know organizations like Evolve are available for those most in need and when they most need it.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for patients as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that patients have varying needs, and patients can freely choose outside treatment. Addiction is our number one health issue and making it more difficult for recovery homes makes no sense.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Michael Kipp
13 Bayship Rd.
Dundalk, MD. 21222

June 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Steven Skillman and I am currently a substance abuse counselor in Anne Arundel County. Currently I have about 9 ½ years clean after being in active addiction for 20 years of my life. Back in December of 2003 I lost my brother to addiction during a time when the only treatment available was inpatient and it was essentially to detox a patient with minimal help with psychological issues and you were not allowed to interact with other patients. The current model in recovery can be inpatient or outpatient care or even start inpatient and work their way down to outpatient. This step down model is helpful for clients to adjust and learn to live independently. It is imperative for clients to have a sober living house as most cannot afford to live on their own and would have the support of others to help them maintain their sobriety. Getting rid of or severely limiting the number of residents would affect the client's support system and would impact the client's ability to have a structured environment and accountability. If this system was in place 20 years ago my brother might still be alive as he would have been surrounded by others going through the same thing as he was and have the ability to gain assistance from others to take him to meetings. It is imperative for clients to have access to recovery homes as most do not have anyone to turn to for a place to live and to have a supportive and structured environment to help them maintain their sobriety and become productive members of society.

We appreciate counselman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Steven Skillman
2528 Mountain Rd.
Pasadena, MD 21122

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Michelle King, I have been the director of recovery housing for Evolve Life Centers for the past five years.. I am very passionate about the work that I do so you can imagine that the topic of recovery housing hits very close to home for me. I am very blessed in the fact that I get to personally witness what recovery housing does for our clients on a daily basis. Most people who battle with addiction in any form usually end up losing everything, including housing. Clients being able to have a place to call their home temporarily while rebuilding their lives is such a valuable asset. Limiting the number of recovery house beds will be devastating. I think it's important to remember that every bed in a recovery house has the potential to save a life.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Michelle King
331 Grove Park
Brooklyn Park, Md. 21225

June 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Rebecca and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County. There is no way I could share with you all of my story in just a letter but what I can do is share with you briefly how this treatment center and its program has been able to keep me clean so much longer than going to a rehabilitation center and going back to my usual life. Obviously going to a rehabilitation center and going straight back home did not work for me. I was back using within a month or two. This time I went through the Evolve program and such an amazing difference it has made in my life. I personally love the way it's done. It's like you are stair stepped back into being a productive member of society. I progressed from the 3.3 program (Completed), to their 3.1 (unfortunately I was unable to complete that due to a medical condition), went to OP (Completed) and am now currently living in a recovery house. I have been through many trials during my stay here and I can tell you with almost absolute certainty that I would not be clean today had I not been living in the recovery house I am in, especially after having lost my sister as a direct result of this disease in December. The women in this house showed up for me in ways I could have never expected and I am so beyond grateful to have had them in my life.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage. By creating such a limit in these houses there are so many things I feel that are being overlooked. First and most obvious not utilizing living space especially if a house has more than five bedrooms, such a waste. Additionally it limits the individuals who have made a decision to get clean/sober an affordable and safe environment to even enter if there is no space for them to move to. Second, these recovery houses mean so much more than people realize. They provide a safe affordable environment for people to help put their lives, families, and spirits back together. They teach us to follow rules, respect boundaries, learn to deal with different personalities, build bonds, trust people again, become productive members of society, take accountability for our past and present, and heal. Lastly, the cost of living while trying to put our lives back together would be too expensive. I myself am a single mother of 6 children and I am trying to save up for a place of my own to live with them. Forcing the owners of recovery houses to increase rent would make it almost impossible for me to achieve my goal of reuniting my family. Maintaining a home is not cheap by any means and when you have less people to split the cost between the people who suffer are us residents and our families.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other.

Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for patients as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that patients have varying needs, and patients can freely choose outside treatment. As I had explained earlier in the beginning, these programs and these recovery houses save lives, save relationships and show us that it can be done. Not only that it can be done but how it's done. I personally don't know if they had programs like this where my sister lived but after my experience with the process, I would've asked her to give it a try. I strongly believe the only reason I am alive today is because of the treatment I had received and more so because of the recovery house that I currently reside in.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population experiencing substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Rebecca Ward

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council,

My name is Shelby Bridges and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County. After completing my 28 day program I came to evolve for sober living and to participate in their IOP program. I can honestly say that the women I share a house with are like my sisters and I am honored to call them family. Also the staff and counselors truly care about our well being.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage are a more sufficient way to fill the houses then only 5 people per house. This not only helps the men and women with building a network but also not to have wasted space in each of the houses.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other.

Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for patients as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that patients have varying needs, and patients can freely choose outside treatment. However in patient treatment is necessary for those clients who are not able to have more responsibilities as the clients that are in IOP or OP.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population experiencing substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Shelby Bridges

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council,

My name is Frankie Mazzone and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County. After completing my 28 day program I came to evolve for sober living and to participate in their IOP program. I can honestly say that the women I share a house with are like my sisters and I am honored to call them family. Also the staff and counselors truly care about our well being.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage are a more sufficient way to fill the houses then only 5 people per house. This not only helps the men and women with building a network but also not to have wasted space in each of the houses.

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Thank you.

Frankie Mazzone

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council,

My name is Tamela Ceo and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County. After completing my 28 day program I came to evolve for sober living and to participate in their IOP program. I can honestly say that the women I share a house with are like my sisters and I am honored to call them family. Also the staff and counselors truly care about our well being.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage are a more sufficient way to fill the houses then only 5 people per house. This not only helps the men and women with building a network but also not to have wasted space in each of the houses.

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We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population experiencing substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Tamela Ceo

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Illiana Cordon and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County. I am a mother of 4 who unfortunately fell in Addiction but i was blessed to find Evolve Treatment Center. My life changed i had no money but they made sure i had housing it has helped tremendously to have structure and be able to be a mother to my be able to be children. Please consider this letter to make sure we have a home and continue our recovery process.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population experiencing substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Illiana Cordon

June 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Oluwatoyin Adekeye. I am a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner working at a recovery treatment center which focuses on helping people have productive and meaningful lives.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Oluwatoyin Adekeye, DNP, FNP-C, PMHNP_BC
Psychiatric Mental health Nurse Practitioner.

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council,

My name is Willow Kogger and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County. After completing my 28 day program I came to evolve for sober living and to participate in their IOP program. I can honestly say that the women I share a house with are like my sisters and I am honored to call them family. Also the staff and counselors truly care about our well being.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage are a more sufficient way to fill the houses then only 5 people per house. This not only helps the men and women with building a network but also not to have wasted space in each of the houses.

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We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population experiencing substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Willow Kogger

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council.

My name is Daryl T. Williams, and I am a Recovery Technician currently employed at Evolve Life Centers, 2528 Mountain Road Suite 204, Pasadena, MD 21122. I may have only been with the organization since November of 2022. I have not seen such an organization that puts forth the effort to give more to its clients and to the community for which it serves. This is not like other companies which have their headquarters in another state, but is housed here directly in Anne Arundel County.

Though, I may not be a resident of Anne Arundel County, I do have family members and friend that do reside here. As an individual that have struggled with addition and mental issue, searching for the right facility to assist in all aspect of that treatment have been far and few between. Even as a past member of the military, the VA do not have all of the answers and we as past members of the military must seek assistance within the communities we live. The availability of these services is vital for our wellbeing. We as members of the Arm force, rely heavily on and need companies, community organizations and non-profit for assistance.

As I can appreciate Councilman Volker's interest in the residential recovery and treatment center, but I respectfully disagree with the bill as it totally limits the need of individuals within the community as a hold to seek help and assistance within the community for which they live. Based upon number of patients as indicated in this bill, the wait time for individuals seeking help in my view will triple, that will lead to more deaths within the State of Maryland. The proposed limit is arbitrary, and is unaligned with the increasing need to meet substance abuse with the Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. Such a cap that is proposed would be like, an ER/hospital saying how many people I can take in and save and how many I have to turn away and let die. Yet I have all of the staffing and resources to help this individual in need, but cannot due to this new cap. It becomes a matter of what do we tell the family of an individual who still suffers. I request that we maintain the current guidelines based upon square footage.

Councilman Volker's bill that would also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. This action would dramatically affect the resources that are already limited to the citizens within the Anne Arundel County.

Having previously worked at the VA Medical Center, were veterans were able to enjoy a variety of care options, the residential home setting was the best environmental care options in dealing with their individual and collective needs, i.e., Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder {PTSD} and Substance Abuse. To remove individuals that would require like community association in my view would be detrimental in their long term wellbeing, treatment is based upon social healing not isolation/separation and that is what this part of the bill would do as it may be unintended. The idea is to remove barriers not to build move and this country attempts to curve mental health and substance abuse issue as a society.

With Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the county has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses within the six months of 2003, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. That is 41 of these have been fatal overdoses, of which a 19.6% decrease. We can all measure the

number of overdoses, but can we put a number on the amount of crime that has plagued our community. Without offering individuals assistance through a viable treatment program, we Can't expect their life to turn around. That is why having residential recovery houses, easily accessible and lifesaving.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a viable solution that does not take our vulnerable population experience substance abuse two steps back. We only ask that this Council hear and see the needs of the community in which we are a part of and hear to serve the constituents of the Anne Arundel County Community to the best of our ability.-

Thank you.

Daryl T. Williams
U.S. Army E-7 Retired

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council,

My name is Aimee Flaherty and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County. After completing my 28 day program I came to evolve for sober living and to participate in their IOP program. I can honestly say that the women I share a house with are like my sisters and I am honored to call them family. Also the staff and counselors truly care about our well being.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage are a more sufficient way to fill the houses then only 5 people per house. This not only helps the men and women with building a network but also not to have wasted space in each of the houses.

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Thank you.

Aimee Flaherty

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Jessie Costley, one of many mothers that have had the unfortunate experience of losing a child to the disease of addiction!

I'm currently working for a recovery treatment center and have witnessed the support treatment centers (inpatient, outpatient, and residential homes) provide many individuals and families in Anne Arundel County.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you

Jessie Costley
Pasadena, MD 21122

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Sheila Johnson ,working for a recovery treatment center. I witness that recovery housing and treatment centers are beneficial providing a place to stay where you have a supportive community and can start your **new life** free from alcohol or other drugs.Limiting recovery housing will be detrimental to all those in need and would not limit those from using and in need.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Sheila Johnson
2528 Mountain Rd

Pasadena, MD 21122

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Pamela Hersey, I am an office administrator with Evolve Life Centers and in my time working here I have gotten to know many of our clients who have shared how Evolve has changed their lives. I believe that our community would suffer if this bill were to pass. The individuals that we serve are working to rebuild their lives and they do so by living in our recovery homes. I am hopeful that we can continue to serve the recovery community in the capacity that we have been for many years.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for individuals as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that residents have varying needs, and that they can freely choose outside treatment. Addiction is our number one health issue and making it more difficult for recovery homes makes no sense.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Pamela Hersey
7 Willowdale Ave
Glen Burnie, Md 21061



Grace House Recovery Services, LLC
1401 Madison Park Drive, Suite 100 A
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
(443) 741-7044
Gracehouserecoveryservices@gmail.com

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and & Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Kathryn Burns, and I am the Administrator Assistant of Grace House Recovery Services, LLC located at 1401 Madison Park Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21061. Our organization, Grace House Recovery Services' mission is to offer a safe, structured, supportive and affordable drug and alcohol free environment and help clients focus on sobriety providing resources to further their recovery. Over the 14 years we have been in business, we have served thousands of people and currently employ 5 employees.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the Volke's bill intends to prescribe arbitrarily mandate a limitation on the number of patients that may be housed in a through a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. because the resources may not be available when a person is in need. We recommend capping these numbers with arbitrary mandates instead of maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage of a room or residence means that in some locations space could be wasted that would have otherwise saved a life. We strive to help as many people as possible without turning anyone in need away. With the current program it allows us to help as many addicts and provide them a place to live without overcrowding. If we take beds away many clients would not have a safe place to live, will continue to live on the street, use and sadly die. [NOTE WHY A CAP OF FIVE PEOPLE WOULD BE A DETRIMENT AND WHY THE CURRENT LIMITATIONS BASED UPON SQUARE FOOTAGE IS BETTER]

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Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn Burns". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "B" at the end.

Kathryn Burns
Grace House Recover Services, LLC



Grace House Recovery Services, LLC
1401 Madison Park Drive, Suite 100 A
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
(443) 741-7044
Gracehouserecoveryervices@gmail.com

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and & Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Elizabeth Cataldo, and I am the Account of Grace House Recovery Services, LLC located at 1401 Madison Park Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21061. Our organization, Grace House Recovery Services' mission is to offer a safe, structured, supportive and affordable drug and alcohol free environment and help clients focus on sobriety providing resources to further their recovery. Over the 14 years we have been in business, we have served thousands of people and currently employ 5 employees.

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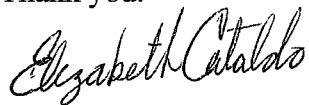
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Thank you.



Elizabeth Cataldo
Grace House Recover Services, LLC



Grace House Recovery Services, LLC
1401 Madison Park Drive, Suite 100 A
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
(443) 741-7044
Gracehouserecoveryervices@gmail.com

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and & Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Dawn Klekotka, and I am the Director of Grace House Recovery Services, LLC located at 1401 Madison Park Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21061. Our organization, Grace House Recovery Services' mission is to offer a safe, structured, supportive and affordable drug and alcohol free environment and help clients focus on sobriety providing resources to further their recovery. Over the 14 years we have been in business, we have served thousands of people and currently employ 5 employees.

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Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Klekotka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dawn" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Klekotka".

Dawn Klekotka

Grace House Recover Services, LLC



Grace House Recovery Services, LLC
1401 Madison Park Drive, Suite 100 A
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
(443) 741-7044
Gracehouserrecoveryservices@gmail.com

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and & Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Linda Conner, and I am the Administrator of Grace House Recovery Services, LLC located at 1401 Madison Park Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21061. Our organization, Grace House Recovery Services' mission is to offer a safe, structured, supportive and affordable drug and alcohol free environment and help clients focus on sobriety providing resources to further their recovery. [Share one to two sentences about your organization]. Over the 14 years we have been in business, we have served thousands of people and currently employ 5 employees.

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Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Conner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Linda Conner
Grace House Recover Services, LLC



Grace House Recovery Services, LLC
1401 Madison Park Drive, Suite 100 A
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
(443) 741-7044
Gracehouserecoveryservices@gmail.com

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and & Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Trisha Crowely, and I am the CEO of Grace House Recovery Services, LLC located at 1401 Madison Park Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21061. Our organization, Grace House Recovery Services' mission is to offer a safe, structured, supportive and affordable drug and alcohol free environment and help clients focus on sobriety providing resources to further their recovery. Over the 14 years we have been in business, we have served thousands of people and currently employ 5 employees.

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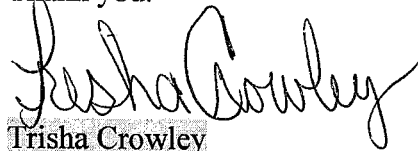
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Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trisha Crowley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" at the end.

Trisha Crowley
Grace House Recover Services, LLC

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Kaitlyn Arnold. I am currently the Director of Clinical Programming at Evolve Life Centers. Previously, I was the primary counselor at Evolve's 3.1 program. I am a huge advocate for "long term treatment." We see much higher success rates with clients who have a continuum of care for 1 year plus. When clients complete a detox or standard 30 day inpatient program, it is vital for them to have treatment support for accountability to ensure they stay on the right path. Clients who continue in outpatient treatment paired with recovery housing have accountability of urinalysis as well as support from a clinician who is trained to help them along in their recovery. Clients also receive transportation services to appointments and services which plenty of clients struggle with in early recovery. As a person in long term recovery, I have seen countless clients and people benefit from recovery housing and outpatient treatment in conjunction with one another.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Kaitlyn Arnold

June 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Justin Smith, I am a Lead recovery Technician at Evolve life centers. I myself am in recovery and had not been for places like evolve having an open bed I would not be where I am today. I have nearly 3 years in recovery and my life today is beyond my wildest dreams. My life was given back to me by a program like evolve. I was struggling with addiction for nearly 10 years. If this bill goes through we will not be able to fully serve the community and help addicts find a new way of life.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Justin Smith
2528 Moutain Rd.
Pasadena, MD 21122

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Jordan Giordano, I have been the Lead Recovery Technician for Evolve's 3.1 program for almost four years now. I have personally witnessed the amazing transformations of many clients who have come through our programs day to day. Most clients that come through our program have little to nothing to their name. In these programs we help clients address mental health, primary health care, substance abuse and help obtain any vital documents the clients may need to obtain employment enabling them to become independent. In our 3.1 program clients are only here for five months and are able to step down to our recovery housing. I can't imagine not having that referral once they complete our program that gives them added support and security to become productive citizens of society. Our programs are essential to help many many people in recovery. Limiting resources for individuals seeking stable housing, accountability, a working network within the community, and extra resources to help the individuals on the outside would significantly impact the number of overdoses we already see day to day. Many clients have expressed the positive impact of not only our 3.3 and 3.1 programs but also our recovery houses reporting how our programs have saved their lives and helped them smoothly transition to a productive member of society. Without our recovery houses or in-housing treatment programs many individuals will not have the resources to obtain adequate stable living situations.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Jordan Giordano, 3.1 Lead Recovery Technician
2528 Mountain RD
Pasadena, MD 21122



Maryland Wellness and Recovery

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Sahar Geramifar and I am the executive Director of Maryland Wellness and Recovery located at 11125 Rockville Pike #302 North Bethesda MD 20852. We provide outpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment to individuals all over Maryland. We believe in multiple pathways to recovery and individualizing each client's recovery journey as they go through our program. Over the 5 years we have been in business, we have served 2300 individuals and currently employ 15 employees.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage. Limiting the capacity to 5 people would negatively impact the treatment community and the people it serves as a whole. Reputable treatment centers would not be able to provide the excellent services they are able to provide now. Staffing would have to be cut, which in turn would severely impact on the quality of services. Accountability is important for people in early recovery and without the proper professionals in place the accountability and structure would decline immensely in the programs that would be affected by this bill. This is NOT a solution for people seeking treatment or recovery support.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for patients as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that patients have varying needs, and patients can freely choose outside treatment. In my professional experience, not only is the continuum of care very important to better recovery outcomes but also is so needed. First committing to or deciding to enter a program and get help is a huge battle within oneself. Getting through a 30-day program is the second battle a person has to go through. Next figuring out what options they have after they complete can be very frightening for someone that is trying to get their life back. Most individuals cannot go back to their homes, cities, towns due to triggers or toxic/unsupportive relationships. As a professional in this field, we all know that to remain abstinent and not fall back into the same old destructive patterns most individuals look for a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility to support their sobriety. It can take 6 months to a year or even longer for a person to start feeling like themselves again after substantial alcohol and drug use. The longer they are able to stay in a recovery conducive environment the better the success rate is.



Maryland Wellness and Recovery

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Kindly,

Sahar Albaugh
Executive Director



Maryland Wellness and Recovery
11125 Rockville Pike, Suite 302
Rockville, MD 20852
Office: (240) 242-4225
Cell: (301) 272-5551
Fax: (240) 559-1571
info@mdwar.com
www.mdwar.com

June 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Adrienne Burrell, LMSW. I work as a mental health therapist at Evolve Life Centers and serve clients with co-occurring disorders (mental health and substance use disorders). As a mental health clinician, I have experienced that residential houses not only house individuals working through recovery, but they provide these individuals with an opportunity to experience a sense of community, belonging, safety, and purpose with others who have shared experiences. These interactions can provide individuals in recovery with a solid foundation for the next steps in their recovery. Reducing the amount of persons allowed in a residential recovery house would limit access to substance use treatment in our county and further the detriment of mental health related concerns faced by individuals working through their substance use recovery. This proposed bill would result in lower capacities of individuals having their substance use and mental health needs met. Additionally, the financial burden this change would have on recovery and treatment centers may potentially reduce the number of recovery houses able to remain open in Anne Arundel County. The opioid epidemic is largely correlated with mental health. It would be a disservice to Anne Arundel County to enact a bill that would negatively impact our community's mental health crisis and opioid problem.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Adrienne Burrell, LMSW
Mental Health Therapist
2528 Mountain Road
Pasadena, MD, 21122

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Lukas Kassa, I am a person in long term recovery from a substance use disorder. I am also a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), and a Certified Associate Alcohol & Drug Counselor (CAC-AD) in the State of Maryland and I currently hold a position at Evolve Life Centers in Pasadena MD. I am writing this letter from a well-rounded, personal and professional perspective. I have a wealth of experience in personally receiving services of residential treatment programs and recovery residences (from 2010 to 2013) and then moving on to providing services (from 2015 to present) in recovery residences and SUD treatment programs in Anne Arundel County.

I have personally benefited from living in recovery residences because when I completed residential treatment in 2013 I moved into a recovery house and it was the best possible aftercare option that my counselor recommended, and it was the safest place for me to build a foundation for my recovery while reentering the community within a structured recovery supportive environment. I have also managed one of Evolve Life Centers recovery residences for 18 months from 2016 to 2018 and watched hundreds of men and women build a foundation for recovery within that structure and go on to lead successful and meaningful lives. I believe that residential treatment programs, recovery residences, and outpatient treatment options in Anne Arundel County are invaluable to so many individuals and families in our county. These programs are the cornerstone of the fight against addiction and the public health issues that come along with it and to limit them any further would create more barriers for individuals suffering with addiction and greatly reduce access to treatment and recovery support in Anne Arundel County.

As a member of the recovery community and an employee of Evolve Life Centers, we appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for individuals as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that residents have varying needs, and that they can freely choose outside treatment. Addiction is our number one health issue and making it more difficult for recovery homes makes no sense.

According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the County has experienced approximately 313 total overdoses in the six months of 2023, which is a 2.0% increase from 2022. This increase year-over-year demonstrates the importance of having residential recovery houses and easily accessible treatment.

We look forward to working with stakeholders and the Council to identify a solution that does not take our vulnerable population who experience substance abuse two steps back.

Thank you.

Lukas Kassa
512 S Beechfield Ave,
Baltimore MD, 21229

June 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Mariano Gutierrez, I am both a member of the recovery community in the Anne Arundel County Area, and an employee of the Substance Abuse Treatment field. Programs like Evolve have played an integral part in allowing me the opportunity to change my life. I came to Evolve in 2017 as one of their residents in the Sober Living Program in 2017, today I am one of the Primary Substance Abuse Counselors for the Residential 3.1 program. The life I live today was made possible because of the services that Evolve provides to the members of this community. Limiting these services any further could create barriers for other people in the community that are currently dealing with the same struggle as I once did, and that person may not have the same opportunity to change their life just as I was fortunate enough to be able to do.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Mariano Gutierrez, CSC-AD
7027 Dunhill Rd.
Dundalk MD, 21222

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Nichole Nash. I am a recovery addict. I will have 3 years clean due to hard work and the treatment programs in A.A. County. I have been giving back to the recovery community now for 2 years by working in treatment. I understand many people look down upon addicts as we are bad people. We are not! We put ourselves in bad situations. The treatment programs and recovery housing are/is an amazing opportunity for addicts. These programs teach many how to be a productive member of society. Many of us didn't know how to do simple things, such as paying bills, bathing regularly, even identifying feelings and how to properly express them. I see on the news everyday about all the senseless crime and violence and all the lives we have lost to overdoses. If we no longer have these programs, I can promise you the crime and deaths will go raise tremendously. All the mothers that fought so hard to get their children back and out of foster care, will loose their children again due to being homeless. Again, I understand "addicts" get a bad rap. We are not bad people. We are lost people! Please don't take our home away. A home that some of us have never had before. A place where we finally feel safe!

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Nichole Nash
628 Cecil Ave.
Millersville MD. 21108

June 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Joe Bryan, I am a substance abuse counselor at Evolve Life Centers level III.1 substance abuse treatment facility. I am in recovery myself and have benefited from recovery programs similar to this one. I believe that these types of residential recovery programs can be very beneficial to those struggling with substance use disorder and that our services have helped many people to stabilize their lives, get back on track, and become productive members of society, either again or for the first time.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Joe Bryan BA, ADT
8001 Leeland Dr.
Pasadena, MD 21122

June 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Kimberly Washington. I currently work for Evolve Life Centers in Pasadena, MD. Daily I see our clients succeeding in their recovery journey. If Evolve were not there for them, I am afraid to think where they may be or even if they would be alive.

While I personally have never struggled with addiction, it has affected my youngest sister. She struggled with alcoholism and mental health issues. When she would stop taking her mental health medication because she didn't think it helped and pair that with alcohol, it was a deadly combination. Literally. She attempted suicide. Had a concerned person that happened to be up late at night not seen her in the middle of a field and called for help, she may not be alive.

After being released from the hospital, she was taken to a treatment center where she got the help she needed. She now understands her mental health medication after speaking with a clinician that truly cared about her wellbeing. They also helped her get sober. She has been sober for almost a year and understands you can have fun without drinking.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Kimberly Washington
100 Beth Road
Glen Burnie, MD 21060

Shelby Waters

3.1 Recovery Technician

shelby@evolvelifecenters.com

2528 Mountain Rd Suite 204

Pasadena, MD 21122 443-LIV-FREE

June 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Shelby Waters and I am a Recovery Technician at Evolve Life Centers in Pasadena, MD. Evolve has given me the opportunity to work with some of the most inspiring people I have ever met and provide support to those in our community who need it so much. I have seen our residents lift each other up and be supportive in every way. One of the most important things in recovery is having a support system of people who understand you. By limiting the number of residents, we would be depriving our clients of socialization and the ability to participate in a community.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Shelby Waters

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Wayne Bartholomee, and I am the Resident of Anne Arundel County residing at 441 Edgewater Road North Shore Pasadena, MD. Over the 41 years I have found recovery from drugs & Alcohol in Narcotics Anonymous. I am and have been a community volunteer at both Jennifer Road and Ordinance Road facilities for over ten years and continue my recovery as an active member of NA.

I appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but I respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. I recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Wayne Bartholomee

443-690-6969

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Patricia Tyler and I work at Evolve Life Centers as a counselor in the intake department. It has been a rewarding career working with some of the most needed individuals in our society today. I have interviewed and assessed hundreds of clients and I know that Evolve provides much needed life saving resources that greatly improves their lives. I believe that by limiting the number of beds in sober housing would be to limit the number of people who can receive the life saving opportunity of having a safe environment to live and begin their recovery from substance abuse disorder,

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Patricia Tyler

June 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Jessie Roes, I am the admissions assistant at Evolve Life Centers in Pasadena, MD. Years ago I was a resident in a recovery home and worked my way up to the house manager position. I can not express in words how much having that experience changed my life for the better. Being in the recovery house allowed me to be surrounded by the love and support that I needed at that time in my life. Recovery homes are a vital part of a lot of peoples journeys in recovering from drug and alcohol abuse and with all due respect, to limit them would be a mistake.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Jessie Roes
7719 Grace Ave
Pasadena MD, 21122

June 13, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Courtney Butash, and I am a substance abuse counselor who works in the IOP program but has also formerly worked within the Residential Program. I am a person in long-term recovery with just over four years clean. My journey into working within the recovery community started when I had just a day clean when someone took a chance on me despite my past. Because someone believed in me and wanted to help me in my recovery along with many others, I have been able to find my purpose in life. Sometimes it just takes one person, one opportunity, one moment to take a chance on someone that becomes so impactful that that someone gets to have a life beyond their wildest dreams. This was me, and this is my mission towards helping those just as others did for me. But without the right resources, many people won't get these opportunities to manifest themselves in the best version of themselves that they can be. The services provided through Evolve Life Centers and Evolve Residential I have watched first hand change the lives of many who get to use their experiences to then in turn help others. Being able to have the continuum of care provided through our programs has helped save lives, which for me personally keeps my cup full and allows me to continue my mission in life to help others in recovery as well.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Courtney Butash, ADT
4231 Postal Court
Pasadena, MD 21122

June 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Heather Miller, I am a person in long term recovery. I am an alumni of a residential treatment program and a recovery residency in Anne Arundel County. I completed residential treatment in 2020 and then moved into a recovery residency and completed my outpatient substance abuse treatment while living there. Having access to residential treatment, and then outpatient treatment and recovery housing during the first year of my recovery saved my life.

Currently, I am the admissions coordinator for Evolve Life Centers. I have seen first hand what it looks like to have someone come to us in the beginning of their recovery journey very broken and scared and be able to watch them become happy, healthy and productive members of the community. At Evolve, many of these individuals complete one of our residential treatment programs and then may step down into an outpatient level of care while they live in a recovery residency. I have witnessed the impact of these services and options on countless individuals' lives.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of residents that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage.

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Thank you.

Heather Miller



Maryland Wellness and Recovery

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Sahar Geramifar and I am the executive Director of Maryland Wellness and Recovery located at 11125 Rockville Pike #302 North Bethesda MD 20852. We provide outpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment to individuals all over Maryland. We believe in multiple pathways to recovery and individualizing each client's recovery journey as they go through our program. Over the 5 years we have been in business, we have served 2300 individuals and currently employ 15 employees.

We appreciate Councilman Volke's interest in residential recovery and treatment centers, but we respectfully disagree with the prescribed number of patients that may be housed in a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility established in an existing single-family detached dwelling. The proposed limit is arbitrary, unaligned with the increasing need in our communities, and is a detriment to vulnerable residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding communities. We recommend maintaining the current guidelines based upon square footage. Limiting the capacity to 5 people would negatively impact the treatment community and the people it serves as a whole. Reputable treatment centers would not be able to provide the excellent services they are able to provide now. Staffing would have to be cut, which in turn would severely impact on the quality of services. Accountability is important for people in early recovery and without the proper professionals in place the accountability and structure would decline immensely in the programs that would be affected by this bill. This is NOT a solution for people seeking treatment or recovery support.

Councilman Volke's bill also restricts patients from receiving in-house treatment by classifying that the owner of a group home II or any affiliate thereof may not own two facilities that adjoin each other. Having care options in the residential home setting has been essential for patients as it substantially reduces the number of barriers to treatment, which often includes transportation, access to care quickly and outside of normal provider hours, etc. We also understand that patients have varying needs, and patients can freely choose outside treatment. In my professional experience, not only is the continuum of care very important to better recovery outcomes but also is so needed. First committing to or deciding to enter a program and get help is a huge battle within oneself. Getting through a 30-day program is the second battle a person has to go through. Next figuring out what options they have after they complete can be very frightening for someone that is trying to get their life back. Most individuals cannot go back to their homes, cities, towns due to triggers or toxic/unsupportive relationships. As a professional in this field, we all know that to remain abstinent and not fall back into the same old destructive patterns most individuals look for a recovery residence, group home, or community-based assisted living facility to support their sobriety. It can take 6 months to a year or even longer for a person to start feeling like themselves again after substantial alcohol and drug use. The longer they are able to stay in a recovery conducive environment the better the success rate is.



Maryland Wellness and Recovery

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Kindly,

Sahar Albaugh
Executive Director



Maryland Wellness and Recovery
11125 Rockville Pike, Suite 302
Rockville, MD 20852
Office: (240) 242-4225
Cell: (301) 272-5551
Fax: (240) 559-1571
info@mdwar.com
www.mdwar.com



July 3, 2023

Bill: 55-23 – An Ordinance concerning: Construction and Property Maintenance Codes – Codes and Supplements – Fire Prevention Code – Zoning – Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities

Position: Oppose unless amended

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Pickard, and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

On behalf of the Recovery Housing and Treatment Centers Coalition of Maryland (RHTC), we appreciate Councilman Volke's willingness to engage stakeholders and appreciate his and the Council's attention on the vulnerable population experience substance use disorders.

However, we respectfully must oppose **Bill 55-23 – An Ordinance concerning: Construction and Property Maintenance Codes – Codes and Supplements – Fire Prevention Code – Zoning – Recovery Residences, Group Homes, and Community-Based Assisted Living Facilities, unless amended**. RHTC is a growing coalition of residential housing providers, treatment facilities, group homes, and providers serving residents in Anne Arundel County and throughout Maryland. Our mission is to promote and educate the community, business sector, and government stakeholders on the importance of maintaining and expanding recovery facilities and services in Maryland and the benefits that such facilities have on persons in recovery, the community, and the State.

As currently drafted, 55-23 would be detrimental to recovery residences, group homes, treatment centers, the constituents of Anne Arundel County, and those who receive or seek treatment in the County. There are several concerns with the bill, including a restriction on the number of individuals that can be housed and served in certain facilities, restrictions on where treatment centers and recovery housing can be located, and restrictions on who may own such facilities by prohibiting persons or affiliates of persons or entities thereof from owning two facilities that adjoin each other. These provisions would exacerbate inequities and access to care. Far too many of us have witnessed the devastating effects of addiction firsthand, and as a coalition, we strongly believe in the necessity of creating a supportive environment that fosters recovery and provides individuals struggling with substance abuse the opportunity to rebuild their lives. Therefore, we offer the following amendments which has similarities to Vice-Chair Pickard's bill, 61-23.

Anne Arundel County has experienced a rise in substance abuse cases, including the misuse of prescription drugs, illicit drug use, and alcohol addiction. These issues pose serious health risks to individuals and have profound impacts on the community, including increased crime rates, strained healthcare systems, etc.

Recovery residences, group houses, and substance abuse treatment centers play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges. By providing a safe and supportive environment for individuals in recovery, these facilities offer essential resources and services that aid in the journey towards lasting sobriety. The benefits of recovery residences and treatment programs include structured support, accountability and monitoring, community reintegration, decreased burden on healthcare systems, and reduction in crime rates.



For those reasons, we offer the following amendments:

Strike lines 18-22 under Section 15-3-102:

~~18 “(3) A RECOVERY RESIDENCE, GROUP HOME, OR COMMUNITY BASED ASSISTED
19 LIVING FACILITY WITH SIX OR MORE OCCUPANTS THAT IS ESTABLISHED IN A SINGLE-
20 FAMILY DETACHED DWELLING SHALL CONSTITUTE A CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY
21 CLASSIFICATION AND SHALL COMPLY WITH PROVISIONS OF THIS CODE APPLICABLE TO
22 THE CHANGE IN OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION.”~~

Under Section 18-1-101 make the following changes:

16 (64) “Group home I” means a residential facility [[authorized by federal, State or
17 local law or regulation or]] licensed [[or supervised]] by [[a federal, State, or local agency]]
18 THE MARYLAND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OR OPERATED BY A LICENSED
19 OUTPATIENT TREATMENT PROVIDER LICENSED BY THE MARYLAND BEHAVIORAL
20 HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AS A LEVEL 2.5 3.1 OR ABOVE OR ABOVE TREATMENT
PROVIDER OR ANY

~~21 AFFILIATE THEREOF that houses no more than eight persons, other than staff, with
22 intellectual, development, or physical disabilities, or mental health issues.~~

23

24 (65) “Group home II” means a residential facility [[authorized by federal, State or
25 local law or regulation or]] licensed [[or supervised]] by [[a federal, State, or local agency]]
26 THE MARYLAND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OR OPERATED BY A LICENSED
27 OUTPATIENT TREATMENT PROVIDER LICENSED BY THE MARYLAND BEHAVIORAL
28 HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AS A LEVEL 2.5 3.1 OR ABOVE TREATMENT PROVIDER OR
ANY

~~29 AFFILIATE THEREOF that houses [[between 9 and 16]] NINE OR MORE persons, other than
30 staff, with intellectual, development, or physical disabilities, or mental health issues.~~

31

32 (107) “RECOVERY RESIDENCE” MEANS A FACILITY THAT PROVIDES ALCOHOL-FREE
33 AND ILLICIT-DRUG-FREE HOUSING TO INDIVIDUALS WITH SUBSTANCE-RELATED
34 DISORDERS OR ADDICTIVE DISORDERS OR CO-OCCURRING MENTAL DISORDERS AND
35 SUBSTANCE-RELATED DISORDERS OR ADDICTIVE DISORDERS, AND THAT DOES NOT
36 INCLUDE ON-SITE CLINICAL TREATMENT SERVICES AND IS NOT OPERATED BY A
37 TREATMENT PROVIDER THAT PROVIDES LEVEL 2.5 OR HIGHER TREATMENT SERVICES OR
38 ANY AFFILIATE THEREOF.

39

Under Section 18-10-135, line 28 change “FIVE” to “SIX” to match state requirements.

Strike lines 1-6 under Section 18-10-135, subsection 4:

~~1 (5) To help ensure that persons with disabilities live and interact with individuals
2 without disabilities to the fullest extent possible, the owner of a group home II OR ANY
3 AFFILIATE THEREOF may not own two facilities that adjoin each other [[and, if a proposed
4 adjoining facility is owned by a business entity, the owner, the owner’s family, and the
5 owner’s business associates may not have any interest, financial or otherwise, in the
6 business entity]].~~



Under Section 101.2.1 strike the following occupancy requirements and change the definition to “50 square ft. per resident per living space to match state and national standards:

24 **101.2.1 Detached one- and two-family dwellings and multiple single-family**
25 **dwellings.** Detached one- and two-family dwellings, ~~RECOVERY RESIDENCES AS~~
26 ~~DEFINED IN § 18-1-101 OF THE COUNTY CODE WITH FIVE (5) OR FEWER OCCUPANTS~~
27 ~~THAT COMPLY WITH § 15-3-102(A)(2) OF THE COUNTY CODE~~, and multiple single-family
28 dwellings (townhouses) not more than three stories above grade plane in height with a
29 separate means of egress and their accessory structures shall comply with the 2018
30 International Residential Code.

We strongly urge the Anne Arundel County Council to OPPOSE 55-23 as drafted and defer to the wisdom of the Council to amend this bill or to move favorably on another group home piece of legislation scheduled to be heard on July 17, 2023, with a few amendments, Recovery residences, group homes, and substance abuse treatment centers have proven to be essential in addressing the growing substance abuse problem and supporting individuals on their path to recovery effectively saving lives and families.

Thank you.

Recovery Housing & Treatment Centers Coalition of Maryland
Therese Hessler, Executive Director
Sarah Peters, Executive Director

For more information or questions, please contact:
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Sarah Peters | 410-322-2320 | speters@hbstrategies.us

Date of Anne Arundel County Council Hearing: July 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Subject: Bill 55-23 – Recovery Residences

Sponsor: Nathan Volke, Councilmember, District 3

POSITION: OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Pickard & Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Thomas Burden, Founder of Achieve Behavioral Health Services and New Points Recovery Communities.

Statistics show that 62.2 million people in the United States, ages 12 or older, used illicit drugs in the past year. That is 21.9% of the American population which is nearly 2 in 5 young adults.

In 2022, 46.3 million people suffered from alcohol-use disorder; 13.5% of adults suffered from both substance abuse disorder and mental illness; and 12.3 million had serious thoughts of suicide to end their life of untreated substance abuse disorder. Opioid deaths alone were near 100,000 in 2022. This disease when untreated and unmanaged will only increase. The death rate is more than that of the number of fatalities on a jet airliner crashing every day.

Many of these people are in your County and all Maryland Counties. “The Americans With Disabilities Act” provides the right to manage, house and care for those people with this disease. The people suffering are children, lawyers, doctors, teachers, moms, dads, husbands and wives – all of whom are just trying to live!

The disease of substance abuse disorder recognizes no age, race or class. It affects every family in our State. To deny these people a chance to treat this disease is morally and ethically wrong. Any disease in any County in Maryland that brings suffering to families with these huge numbers needs access to treatment and care. We need more treatment, not less.

Please don't support this Bill 55-23 or any other Bill that takes away our citizens' rights to treat and manage their addiction. This will not only affect Anne Arundel County, but all Counties in Maryland.

I keep hearing people say that somebody has to do something about the epidemic of addiction. You, me, and all of us who care are those somebodies. We can help by not supporting Bill 55-23.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas Burden

Thomas Burden
Founder
Achieve Behavioral Health Services &
New Points Recovery Communities