

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Senate Housing Committee members,

My name is Adrian Burris and I am a person in long term recovery.. Which for me means I haven't drank, or used drugs in over 8 years... I am currently the Director of Operations of 4D recovery, a recovery community organization providing peer services to young people.. I've worked for 4D for over 6 years, preceded by two years where I was a recipient of their services.

Today, I stand before you, in hopes of using my recovery story to emphasize the importance of recovery housing.

Like many others, my recovery journey began with my involvement with the criminal justice system.. In 2015, I was arrested, and spent 5 months in the Multnomah county jail. I was released to inpatient treatment, where I spent the next 6 months learning valuable tools to help me sustain my newly found life of recovery. Through this program, I was introduced to 4D and was also fortunate enough to secure a spot in one of VOA's recovery housing programs, both integral parts of my sustained recovery.

Sustaining recovery isn't just about acquiring tools, it's about being situated in environments conducive to their application.. Drawing from my own lived experience, I can say that recovery conducive environments such as "recovery housing" are of equal importance to the tools learned and used to mitigate relapse and sustain recovery...

Having environments conducive to the process of recovery are vital to the healing of the wounds inflicted by addiction.. Recovery housing acts as a cast for a broken arm, facilitating the healing process...While bones may heal on their own, the presence of a support structure accelerates and improves the healing process..

I am proud to say that today, I am currently in the process of purchasing a home of my own.. This is a huge milestone, that undoubtedly would not be possible had the foundation of my recovery not been fortified by resources like recovery housing. As the former Chair and current member of Oregon's ADPC Recovery Subcommittee, I've had the pleasure of working with other recovery leaders pushing forth an initiative promoting overdose prevention. As a part of this initiative, our subcommittee was asked to formulate 2-3 recommendations, the first of which called for increased access to recovery housing. As a subcommittee, we recognized the importance of recovery housing and its role in the reduction of accidental overdoses, and after today hopefully you do as well..

This is why I am in support of SB 1530