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Columbus Oxford house resident

Re: Opposition to HB 2239 – Protecting the Integrity of Oxford House and Its Certification Standards

To whom it may concern

I am writing as a resident of an Oxford House and a person in long-term recovery to express my strong opposition to HB 2239. This bill threatens the very foundation of Oxford House by attempting to impose unnecessary restrictions that could undermine the self-governing, self-supporting model that has been instrumental in my recovery and that of countless others.

Oxford House provides a safe, structured, and accountable living environment for individuals like me who are working to rebuild their lives. The self-governing nature of our homes fosters responsibility, accountability, and a sense of ownership that is critical for long-term recovery. Unlike other recovery housing models, Oxford House does not rely on outside management, which allows residents to truly take control of their sobriety and future.

Furthermore, the certification standards of Oxford House, as recognized under the Oxford House, Inc. (OHI) model, should be held on equal footing with the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) certification. Oxford House has a proven track record of success, with decades of data supporting its effectiveness. It is unfair and unnecessary to impose additional regulatory barriers that could limit access to this life-saving resource.

As someone who has directly benefited from Oxford House, I can personally attest to the positive impact of its structure. The peer-led environment gave me the tools and support needed to maintain sobriety, reintegrate into society, and regain stability in my life. HB 2239 threatens to erode this vital system and make it harder for individuals seeking recovery to access the support they need.

I urge you to oppose HB 2239 and to recognize the value that Oxford House provides in the recovery community. Please stand with those of us who have found hope and healing through this model by ensuring that its certification remains valid and respected. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

