



Thank you Sen/Rep. XXXXX and committee for the opportunity to testify on-----

My name is ----- . I am representing myself as a -----(choose option)

- A. person in long-term recovery from substance use issues.
- B. Family member of someone in recovery from substance use issues
- C. Family member in recovery
- D. Professional working in addiction treatment/recovery field

I am testifying in support of HB -----, because -----

- A. Texas needs voluntary recovery housing certification to ensure that we appropriately connect persons in recovery from substance use issues to supportive living environments that promote cost effective outcomes and support long term recovery.

- B. Recovery has enabled me to live a happier, healthier and more productive life, and others deserve recovery.

Lived experience:

I speak out today to help others gain greater access to recovery support, because recovery has enabled me to live a happier, healthier and more productive life.

Many people who live in your districts return from treatment to living environments that enable addiction, which sets them up for failure and drives systems cost.

For lived experience in RH (positive)

Living in recovery housing gave me a place to build a solid foundation for my recovery.

For lived experience (negative):

I was sent to a recovery home from treatment where people were still using and being paid to relapse. The house manager was never trained and only had 3 months sober. The treatment center that referred me to this house did not know the business practices of the owner. Had I been sent to a certified recovery home, this may not have happened.

For families:

Lack of certified homes and a streamlined process make it quite difficult for parents like me to find safe and affordable recovery homes. There is little unbiased guidance available and we often are not able to tell which homes would be the best fit for our child.



For workforce:

As a clinician, it is difficult to know what homes are offering quality recovery oriented environments. It is not uncommon for a client to call me after discharge and report unethical business practices and deceptive marketing.

The importance of recovery housing was highlighted in the Surgeon General's *Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health*¹, and more recently, by the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction.² More recently, SAMHSA, the National Council on Behavioral Health and Model State Laws all recommend certified recovery housing.

However, the availability and quality of recovery housing in Texas is limited and varies greatly across the state.

The State of Texas needs voluntary recovery housing certification to help us better serve people in recovery and relieve the strain on the state.

Please support HB xxx.

¹ <https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/sites/default/files/chapter-5-recovery.pdf>

² https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/images/Final_Report_Draft_11-1-2017.pdf