

The importance of sober housing goes far beyond the addict themselves. The impact travels to <sup>their</sup> children, parents, spouses, and even into the workplace. For me, the impact travels to nearly <sup>forty</sup> former case management clients, and dozens of local businesses. If not for sober housing and the recovery community, this impact likely would have ended poorly, with an overdose. Because of the Sober House I'm currently living in, one that coincidentally had a fire not long ago, <sup>and no one was hurt, due to MARR safety regulations</sup> I've found a safe place to heal. A place where I can grow and blossom into the best version of myself. A place where I can heal and never have to look my demons in the eye, nor run from them, ever again. If I did not have my sober house, I would likely be dead. Leaving my daughter w/o a mother - ~~which~~ further traumatizing her, as well as all of my former clients, my husband, my step-son, and all of my friends + family - increasing each and every one of their chances of becoming an addict themselves - statistically. I understand that LD 109 is about safety concerns - But ~~the~~ installing sprinkler systems is costly - and nearly half of our sober houses will have to close - which, mark my words, will result in deaths. I challenge the committee to consider that the most unsafe sober house is a closed sober house, and oppose LD 109.

Thank you!

Sarah Manful