

My name is Eric Skillings.

I am a person in recovery. I am here today to share why it's important for the recovery community to keep the laws of recovery housing the way they are. Recovery starts with safe housing. People with substance use disorder cannot get clean and sober in an environment where people are misusing drugs and alcohol such as the homeless community or couch surfing. If this law passes it will be close to impossible for most recovery houses to stay open. Most people that own and operate recovery houses do it because they care about this vulnerable population. So most recovery residences can afford the fee to install sprinkler systems. Maintaining the sprinkler systems would be too much money on it's own. Recovery housing allows people with substance use disorder to build a foundation in recovery. It allows people to rebuild their lives. Residents begin to get things back that are so important in their lives. Rebuilding relationships, securing employment, getting a driver's license, a vehicle, and one of the most important things is staying free from incarceration. Recovery housing lowers the recidivism rates. This vulnerable population of people are trusted again and become productive members of society. If this law passes it will devastate our recovery community that so many of us have worked so hard for.

Thank you for your time!